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THE TIMES

Karamoja famine will
return with
a vengeance, page 11

Poor health forces Mr Kosygin to quit premiership

Mr Kosygin has relinquished the Soviet premiership after 15 years in office because of the ill health that followed a heart attack a year ago. His last public appearance, at the Moscow Olympics, has been followed by weeks in hospital. His stop-gap successor is Mr Nikolai Tikhonov who, at 75, is only a year younger than Mr Kosygin.

Stop-gap replacement appointed

On Michael Binyon Oct 23
Mr Alexei Kosygin, the Soviet Premier for the past 15 years, has resigned because of ill health. He was succeeded by Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, his deputy, who is 75, a year younger than Mr Kosygin. Mr Kosygin, who has suffered a serious heart attack a year ago, has been in hospital since then. He was succeeded by Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, his deputy, who is 75, a year younger than Mr Kosygin. Mr Kosygin, who has suffered a serious heart attack a year ago, has been in hospital since then. He was succeeded by Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, his deputy, who is 75, a year younger than Mr Kosygin.

Councils told to halt spending on housing

By Christopher Weisman and John Young
An indefinite halt to all further local authority capital expenditure on housing was announced yesterday by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment. These restrictions do not apply to Scotland and Wales. The Government's action, which came as a surprise, was prompted by indications that total housing expenditure is likely to exceed the £2,200m budget by up to £180m. Ministers made it clear yesterday that the ban would last until the authorities were able to convince the Government that they were on course to stay within their cash limits. They have been given until next Friday to submit new estimates, and Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction, said that if he and his colleagues were then persuaded that the councils were on the right track, the restrictions would be lifted. Mr Heseltine's circular instructs authorities not to enter into any further contracts for the acquisition of land and buildings, or for building works, nor to authorize their direct labour organizations to start further capital projects, and not to make further grants or loans, except where required to do so by statute. No further borrowing approvals will be issued until further notice and all those already issued are withdrawn except where a contract or given an undertaking to make a loan. The block borrowing approval given last February for housing investment programmes is also withdrawn, and the Government will not get round the restrictions by allocating expenditure from next year's budgets. The Government's drastic action shocked not only local authorities but also the construction industry, which depends heavily upon local authority contracts, and which was assured just over a month ago that a moratorium was not contemplated. Mr Stanley emphasized the Government's determination to see that every part of the public sector adhered to the cash limits which had been set for this year. "We are in the same position as every other department," he added. He pointed out that the moratorium would apply to renovation projects as well as new construction. It would also affect schemes for shared ownership between house purchasers and the Government, on which the Government has recently laid considerable emphasis as a way of encouraging owner occupancy. Mr Stanley's announcement, made after he had called a meeting of the National Home Improvement Council in London, was immediately denounced by Mr Roy Hattersley, Opposition spokesman on the environment, as a declaration of war by the Government on every council tenant and every family hoping to move into council accommodation. Mr Hattersley said: "With one million families on council waiting lists and well over 200,000 construction workers out of work, this Government's disastrous pursuit of monetarist policies has at a stroke further destroyed the prospect of decent homes for millions of people. It guarantees a massive increase in unemployment." To base such a moratorium on estimated figures was "disgraceful", he added. Mr Jack Smart, chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said the moratorium was "a panic reaction that is totally unjustified". The Association of Building Trades Employers said the Government was "in a state of denial".

Police pin blame on heating system and dismiss rumours of terrorism 61 children die in explosion at Spanish school

From Harry Debelius Madrid, Oct 23
At least 61 children and two adults died in an explosion at an elementary school near the northern Spanish city of Bilbao today. The number of injured was estimated at more than 100. The explosion at midday in the iron ore mining town of Orreaga caused the collapse of most of the central part of the school building. There may have been as many as 1,300 children in the school at the time. It was built for a capacity of 700 students. Police and firemen rejected speculation that the disaster might have been the work of political extremists in the troubled Basque country. They believe that a large canister of propane gas used for the central heating system blew up. One of those who lost his life was a workman who was in the basement repairing the boiler. At nightfall firemen, policemen, soldiers, sailors and civilian volunteers were still working feverishly, clearing away debris in the hope of finding more survivors. Messages broadcast throughout the town by loudspeakers urged parents to register the names of their children who attended the school at the town hall, since school records were lost in the accident. The lists, the town council said, would be used to help to identify the dead and to determine how many are still missing. Radio stations broadcast appeals for teachers and former teachers to help in the identification of bodies recovered from the rubble. By this evening, 35 of the bodies had been identified. Hospitals in northern Spanish cities saw blood plasma and people waited in long queues to donate blood. Radio stations called on doctors and nurses off duty in the region to go to Orreaga. The exact number of injured was hard to determine because of the confusion. Doctors set up clinics in houses in the town and treated the injured on the spot rather than send them to hospital. Ambulances were reserved for the most urgent cases. School books, papers and smashed desks were scattered over the area. The King and Queen of Spain sent their deep regrets and Queen Sophia flew to Bilbao this evening, intending to drive



A father carrying away his daughter from the ruins of the Orreaga school.

heavy construction equipment to the scene of the disaster, but most of the work was too delicate for the use of such machinery. Hours after the blast a number of children were still believed to be trapped inside the ruins. School books, papers and smashed desks were scattered over the area. The King and Queen of Spain sent their deep regrets and Queen Sophia flew to Bilbao this evening, intending to drive

ICI blames recession for first loss of £10m

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke
Financial Editor
The first loss of £10m by Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) for the first three quarters of the year was announced today. The loss was attributed to the recession and a worldwide slump in demand for chemicals and textiles. ICI said it intended to maintain the dividend. At one point it dropped as low as 31p. ICI has substantial manufacturing capacity in Europe, North America and Australia, but last year 21 per cent of its British-manufactured products were exported. Since sterling has appreciated dramatically this year against the currencies of ICI's major exporting countries, profit margins have gone. Sir Maurice Hodgson, ICI's chairman, said the company had been hit by "a unique combination of adverse circumstances". These were: the recession; sharply increased costs of oil and oil-related products such as chemicals and man-made fibres; high wage costs exacerbated by excess plant capacity; and the soaring exchange rate. The stock market had been expecting bad figures. Last week, ICI's textiles division announced the closure of two plants and the loss of 4,000 jobs over the past 18 months. In active trading yesterday, some two million ICI shares changed hands. By the end of the day the price stood 8p higher at 33p, partly because ICI said it intended to maintain the dividend. At one point it dropped as low as 31p. ICI has substantial manufacturing capacity in Europe, North America and Australia, but last year 21 per cent of its British-manufactured products were exported. Since sterling has appreciated dramatically this year against the currencies of ICI's major exporting countries, profit margins have gone. Sir Maurice Hodgson, ICI's chairman, said the company had been hit by "a unique combination of adverse circumstances". These were: the recession; sharply increased costs of oil and oil-related products such as chemicals and man-made fibres; high wage costs exacerbated by excess plant capacity; and the soaring exchange rate. The stock market had been expecting bad figures. Last week, ICI's textiles division announced the closure of two plants and the loss of 4,000 jobs over the past 18 months. In active trading yesterday,

President draws level in US election race

From David Cross Washington, Oct 23
With only 12 days to go before the presidential election, the CBS television network today says the President has the support of 39 per cent of the probable electorate, while Mr Reagan has a 38 per cent share. Support for Mr John Anderson, the independent candidate, has dwindled to a mere 9 per cent, but 13 per cent are still unsure of their final choice. The organizers of the poll say the margin of error in the survey is sufficiently great to mean that Mr Reagan could in fact still be slightly ahead of the President. Nevertheless, The New York Times says, the President has advanced to an essentially even position over the past month by attracting some wavering Democrats and gaining on his rival among independents. The previous poll taken by the two organizations at the end of last month showed that Mr Carter was trailing the former Governor of California by 35 per cent to 40 per cent. At present both Mr Carter and Mr Reagan are campaigning in the South. Election report, page 5

Seamen call strike in ispute over Cunard

National Union of Seamen called a strike of its members on Cunard vessels in protest against the management's decision to transfer two ships to the Red Army. The union says the ships were to be used for one-day strikes on the 1st and 2nd of November. The union says the ships were to be used for one-day strikes on the 1st and 2nd of November.

Use of Army in jails 'not ruled out'

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent
As prison officers talked of increasing their sanctions, Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, said last night he could not rule out the use of troops. He will give Parliament details on Monday of a contingency plan for action when all available police call accommodation runs out. That could happen some time next week, he admitted. Yesterday, the number of people held in police cells rose to 2,791 from 2,388. Prisoners are being held in cells at police stations and court complexes, sometimes in barely tolerable conditions, after they have been refused entry to prisons as a result of the dispute. Mr Whitelaw declined to explain how the troops would be used. He would only say "we would not rule out their use in extreme circumstances and conditions". He hoped it would not be necessary to use troops inside prisons. "Up to now, we have not used troops or police inside existing prisons," he said. Prison officers who had seen Mr Whitelaw came away with the strong impression that he could be talking about the use of troops. Saying there had been no real move in the deadlock, Mr

Mr Benn stopped from standing

Mr Wedgwood Benn is not standing in the parliamentary election for the Labour Party after it was decided that he was not "legitimate" in the election while a formula for a wider electoral college was being sought. The Church of England's call to examine the constitution of the House of Lords by itself and other churches. Lucan legacy: Legal action is expected over £15,000 left to the missing peer. Spain: Andalusia will have an autonomous government next year under an agreement signed in Madrid. Middle East: King Khalid of Saudi Arabia accuses Colonel Gaddafi of being a "fanatical" supporter of Islamic and Islamic sanctions. Hongkong: Illegal Chinese immigrants will no longer be permitted to remain in the colony. Kelly case: Four police officers face perjury charges. Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 23, 24; Appointments, 7, 23; Car buyers guide, 22. London: Michael Ratcliffe on BBC 2's *Talking of the Show*, pages 9, 10. Rugby: Rowing: New national coach appointed; Boxing: Triple world title bid for Wembley. Business News, pages 16-21. Stock market: Equities remained buoyant despite a profit warning from ICI. The decision to leave M.L.R. at 16 per cent left bills unchanged and the FT index rose 8.8 to 492.5. Financial Editor: ICI after the loss. Now, Bass stakes claim in Coral. Business features: Ian Murray on the collapse of the French company. Features.

Shirac aide will run for president

Marie-France Garaud, a world lawyer who acted as adviser to President Pompidou to Jacques Chirac, when he was Prime Minister, said that she is a candidate for the French Presidency. Page 2

Prison uniform abolition in Ulster conceded

By Christopher Thomas
The Cabinet yesterday conceded a crucial demand of Republican prisoners in Northern Ireland in an attempt to avert a hunger strike due to begin at the Maze on Monday. Prison uniform in Ulster is being abolished, answering one of the main demands of IRA and other Republican inmates. Provisional Sinn Féin, flushed with what it sees as an enormous success, said merely that the next move was up to the prisoners. There was no early indication last night whether the move will prevent a hunger strike but "loyalist" politicians embarked on an immediate propaganda tirade against the Government. The change affects all Ulster prisoners but is clearly directed at about 350 people who are on "dirty protest", a bizarre and foul exercise that for 30 months has formed a vital part of the Provisionals' propaganda campaign in Ireland and abroad. A five-page statement by Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, rejected categorically any concession on political status, which ostensibly lies behind the threatened hunger strike. In truth, it has long been felt in Republican circles that concessions on prison clothing and prison work might be enough to end the "dirty protest" and avert the strike. Privately, it is conceded that the prisoners have accepted that they have lost the battle for political status and would settle for something less. The hunger strike, if it goes ahead, will involve a token number of prisoners at the beginning, with more joining at intervals. The action has consistently been opposed by the IRA hierarchy and the Roman Catholic establishment. The Northern Ireland Office said that the decision to approve the wearing of civilian clothes, a concession given to female prisoners, followed a review which had been in progress for some time. Mr Atkins said: "The Government cannot and cannot make any concessions whatever on the principle of political status for prisoners who claim a political motive for their crimes. All have been convicted of criminal acts by due process of law." Unionist politicians were swift and severe in their con-



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HOME NEWS

Unions to make an attempt today to get Thomson decision on Times Newspapers reversed

By Paul Routledge

The newspaper unions are to hold talks with Thomson British Holdings today in a final attempt to reverse the company's decision to cease publishing *The Sunday Times*, *The Times* and three supplements and offer the titles for sale.

A meeting with Mr Gordon Brunt, chairman of TBH, was arranged yesterday after printing and journalists' union leaders met the management of Times Newspapers Ltd for "clarification" discussions on the closure announcement made on Wednesday.

Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the National Graphical Association, said he had "some hope, but not much" that the paper company would reconsider its decision to withdraw from national newspaper publishing in the United Kingdom. The NGA was willing to make some concessions on new technology if the papers could be kept going at the Gray's Inn Road printing plant.

However, Mr Kenneth Ashton, general secretary of the National Union of Journalists, said last night: "They are not going to move. The decision is irrevocable and that is very sad."

After a meeting of fathers (chairmen) of machine and white-collar chapels (office branches), of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (Natsoap) at Times Newspapers last night, Mr Edward O'Brien, the union's general secretary, said: "We have agreed there will be no disruption for the rest of the period that the company publishes the titles."

"We would prefer the company to be sold as a package rather than in bits and pieces. We also want to guarantee from the new owner that he will print *The Guardian*, and once TNL management has drawn up the criteria for a new owner we want to see them."

As soon as a buyer comes along, we want to look at the case and meet him. We want to make sure no unreasonable obstacles

are put in the way of a prospective purchaser."

Mr Wade said that workers in the paper's foundry, unhappy because their jobs would eventually be phased out in the shift to electronic composition, would now accept the change. "I am quite confident that we can carry the whole of our membership into new technology," he insisted.

Other union leaders suggested that the talks on new technology should be carried through to an agreement. If only to provide a more attractive package for prospective purchasers of the titles.

During yesterday's talks the unions were told by the TNL management that a pay offer of 121 per cent rises from October 1 was still on the table, but it would not be improved. It was suggested that the printers should think about forgoing the increases to impress likely buyers.

But Mr Wade added: "I have very grave doubts about whether a buyer is going to emerge."

Letters, page 13

Editor starts consortium talks

By Dan van der Vat

The Editor of *The Times*, Mr William Rees-Mogg, started consultations yesterday about forming a consortium to take over the newspaper, which, with its four sister publications, faces sale or closure by next March.

He said he had been encouraged by the initial response, but it was too early to expect concrete developments. His talks of yesterday had been purely preliminary.

Speculation was rife while fact was scarce to non-existent last night about possible bids for some or all of the titles by outside corporations or entrepreneurs. The only "declared candidate" remains Mr Robert Maxwell, of Pergamon Press.

Further support by the editorial staff for Mr Rees-Mogg's initiative, which is regarded as a *sine qua non* for its success, came yesterday from journalists of *The Times* Ltd (JOTT), a company formed by the staff during the closure of 1979 to defend the paper and its character.

The company has more than

200 shareholders from among the up to 300 journalists employed by the paper and its Literary, Educational and Higher Education supplements.

On Wednesday, the day the present owners, Thomson British Holdings Ltd, announced their decision to sell, the chapel office branch committee of the National Union of Journalists, which has a similar number of members on the four publications, expressed its support for the consortium idea.

The editor yesterday outlined his view of the potential structure of events relating to the consortium. The first stage was to satisfy himself that in pursuing the initiative he was doing what the journalists wanted and that he had their virtually unanimous support. The JOTT and union support he found very positive and important, "because the journalists are *The Times*."

The second stage was to persuade the present owners, now the vendors, that such a solution was right for *The Times*. Mr Rees-Mogg was confident of sympathy from Thomson British Holdings and from Lord Thom-

son of Fleet, whom he will be seeing in Toronto next week.

The third stage would be by far the most difficult, and would involve the development of a management plan which, if realized, would produce a profit on a known turnover of £30m a year.

"This is entirely a question of costs, as revenue cannot be raised significantly," he said. "The present production costs are simply far too high, and we must satisfy ourselves and others that the paper can be produced at a cost lower than its revenue."

The fourth stage would be the production of a clear plan, "in effect a prospectus" for the formation of a consortium. Those stages would involve overlap or even occur simultaneously in some cases.

"If we can put forward proposals people believe in, I am confident that we can obtain the money."

A spokesman for JOTT said that it favoured the retention of the three supplements with the daily paper by a consortium, but generally favoured separate ownership for *The Sunday Times*.

Mrs Dora Russell with Marcelle Quinton's bust of her husband after yesterday's unveiling.

Bertrand Russell commemorated

By Michael Horsnell

About 100 Humanists gathered to pay homage to the late Bertrand Russell in London yesterday when a bronze bust of the philosopher was unveiled.

Lord Russell, who died in 1970 aged 97, will gaze in effigy through the plane trees of Red Lion Square, by Conway Hall, the cultural Cathedral of the humanist movement, in Bloomsbury where he lectured.

In an emotional appeal to her former husband as she unveiled the bust, Mrs Dora Russell, aged 85, asked: "Bertie, do we live and labour in vain? You

wrote that the good life is inspired by love and guided by knowledge. Well, there is far too much knowledge in the world at the present time and far too little love."

It was Dora Russell who conceived the idea of the memorial. She took it up with Lord Russell's lifelong friend, Lord Brockway, and an appeal committee raised most of the £4,000 needed. Sir Alfred Ayer, a member of the committee, introduced the sculptor, Marcelle Quinton, who took six weeks to produce the bust at what she calls an "idealized 60 years of age."

Lord Brockway, who presided at the ceremony, said: "He began his active life in opposition to war. He ended his active life in opposition to war and the danger of nuclear bombs. I very much hope if this country suffers a nuclear attack that the bust of Bertrand Russell will be left standing as a warning to us."

He added: "Bertrand Russell was a complete man, a great philosopher and great mathematician, a great sociologist, in each of those spheres he will be remembered."

Cunard faces strike over flags dispute

By Donald Macintyre

Labour Reporters. The National Union of Seamen last night called a strike of about 2,000 members on Cunard ships over the company's decision to transfer two passenger vessels to flags of convenience.

The union's executive also decided to put to members a call for what would be, in effect, a national one-day strike on November 3.

Under merchant shipping legislation the "flag" strike can be legally applied to vessels only after they enter British ports.

Five of the 20 Cunard cargo vessels operated by British seamen are in United Kingdom ports. Action started on the Scotia at Sheerness, and the Atlantic Conveyor at Southampton, before the executive meeting yesterday.

The strike call was endorsed after talks convened by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service failed to produce an immediate settlement of the dispute which has led to a strike by 120 union members on the Cunard Continent in Bridgetown, Barbados.

Couple fined for imperial measure sales

A couple who have a health food shop were fined £1 each yesterday for selling sugar and sea salt in imperial measures. It was believed to be the first prosecution of its kind in Britain.

John Oliver and Mary Sim, who run Sunfood, 100, Street, Barnstaple, north Devon, pleaded no guilty to contravening the Weights and Measures Act, 1963, when they appeared before Barnstaple magistrates. The couple had sold 100lb bags of sugar and sea salt in 1978 that sugar and sea salt should be sold in metric measures.

The court was told that 300 customers had signed a petition in support of the defendants.

Water industry unions make 30pc claim

By a Staff Reporter

A big gap exists between the National Water Council and leaders of 32,000 workers who submitted a 30 per cent pay claim yesterday.

The council did not make an offer at opening talks yesterday but it is believed to be considering a single figure increase for the industry's employees, most of whom belong to the National Union of Public Employees and the General and Municipal Workers' Union.

If conceded, the claim would add about £20 to basic rates of between £60 and £70 a week. The council says average earnings in the industry are more than £100 a week.

BR move to review closed shop deal

By Our Labour Staff

British Rail is to hold talks with the railway unions early in December to review its closed shop arrangements, which require all employees to be members of a union.

The unions may lead to changes in the criteria under which a British Rail employee can opt out of union membership. At present he has to prove strong religious reasons if he is to avoid dismissal for non-membership of a union.

The European Commission of Human Rights has found that the dismissal of three employees for not belonging to a union breached the Convention on Human Rights.

Although the talks were described last night as "exploratory", it is thought that British Rail believes it may have to revise the grounds in its agreement with the unions.

British Rail's agreement has been singled out in the past by ministers as an example of what the Government is seeking to prevent in the future.

Left urged Mr Benn to ignore PLP contest

By Michael Hatfield

Political Reporter. Mr Benn, who is expected to stand for the Parliamentary Labour Party leadership election but was dissuaded from doing so by his friends, was urged by the left-wing Labour Coordinating Committee to ignore the contest.

That became known last night as the left-wing, but all supporters of Mr Benn, maintained his pressure not to have a PLP election while the party is clarifying the formula for a wider electoral college, embracing trade unions and constituency parties as well as MPs.

Mr Benn apparently saw himself as a leadership candidate after the Party Conference decision and Mr James Callaghan's announcement that he was resigning.

His reasoning was that he should put himself forward as the candidate who represents the decisions of the party conference on the electoral college and the party's commitments.

Mr Benn agreed that it was in the interests of the left to "legitimise" the PLP election.

Mr Michael Meacher, M.P. for the Labour Party, said that the party's decision to have a wider electoral college was a "major step" but he said it was not a question of "siding" with Mr Benn.

"Tony is not a boycott," he said. "He believes in a better way of doing things, but in the best interest to walk the PLP election."

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Mr Shore tells of his bleak fight ahead

By Fred Emery

Political Editor. Emphasising Labour's need for "practical" and "credible" policies, Mr Peter Shore, Minister of State for the Home Office, said he was a "strongly committed" supporter of the party's leadership.

In a speech he not only distanced himself from the wishfulness of the left but gave the "bleakest warning" of the "serious" task the party faced. In a warning, Mrs Margaret Thatcher at the next election.

In the code in which the leadership campaign is being conducted, the word "credible" is pejorative to Mr Michael Foot, that "practical" is meant to set Mr Shore off from Mr John Silkin, while "careful" working out of "practical" social measures, designed to overcome the very real difficulties that we all know to exist.

Turning to the wider mentioned topic of constituent boundary changes, Mr Shore said Labour's challenge was enormous as existing Labour seats disappeared from the map and new ones were created in mainly Tory suburban areas.

Mr Shore, speaking in his east London constituency of Tower Hamlets, said that the "bleakest warning" of the "serious" task the party faced was that time was running out to do

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French press blames the unions

From Ian Murray

Paris. The sale or closure of *The Times* has been widely reported and commented on by the French press.

According to *Le Figaro*, "at the centre of the controversy as can be found the customary problems of vast sectors of British industry, that is to say the refusal by unions to adopt new technology, restrictive practices of all kinds, a staggeringly low level of production and an ever-widening number of staff, which nothing can justify."

According to *France-Soir*, which would seem to share a general admiration at the idea, "if it were to disappear,

85 per cent of the MPs, 82 per cent of the Civil Service (with our country's security of the Indian Army) deprived of their morning reading would be obliged to address a few words to their wives over breakfast! One does not dare imagine the consequences of such a social upheaval in England!"

Le Quotidien de Paris traces the decision to sell the newspapers to "the rivalry between the myriad of trade unions which reigns in the workshops and who fight with each other over every proposal."

Le Quotidien says that *The Times* will almost certainly be in British hands "for *The Times* is before all else the British tradition. Whatever the social agitation going on in its work-

shops, the newspaper intends to remain that sort of institution which has served the needs of the British establishment for nearly two centuries of existence."

Le Monde and *Le Matin* treat the issue at length but very factually.

Most of all is devoted to the matter by *Libération*, the left-wing newspaper founded by Jean-Paul Sartre. A front page headline asks: "Is England for sale?" and inside the article about *The Times* is paired with one about the liner *Queen Elizabeth 2*.

Libération tells its readers that: "*The Times*, the monument to boredom, competence and seriousness edited each day in London, is for sale."

Duty to protect public, Mr Whitelaw says

Continued from page 1

Ultimate action could be the virtual shutdown of prisons and the carrying out of only routine tasks, such as sleeping out and feeding. "I do not want to do that or get to that stage," Mr Steel said.

Mr Whitelaw said he had made it clear to the POA officials that he had the duty to take whatever action was necessary in the circumstances to maintain the safety of the public and to carry out the criminal justice system.

In response to my question Mr Whitelaw denied that the Home Office circular about more use of bail by courts was interference by the executive. The circular called attention, he said, to the difficult circumstances now existing, but the courts were entitled to take what action they did. He had first consulted the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice.

Both sides, after yesterday's meeting, were sticking to their positions.

John Oliver and Mary Sim, who run Sunfood, 100, Street, Barnstaple, north Devon, pleaded no guilty to contravening the Weights and Measures Act, 1963, when they appeared before Barnstaple magistrates. The couple had sold 100lb bags of sugar and sea salt in 1978 that sugar and sea salt should be sold in metric measures.

The court was told that 300 customers had signed a petition in support of the defendants.

Civil Service 'nanny' jobs to go

HOME NEWS

Dilemma for Mr Pym
Is the Treasury seeks
400m cut in defence

Henry Stanhope, defence correspondent, reports that a dispute about defence spending, or cuts in it, is likely to break about the end of Mr. Pym's tenure of office. The Treasury is seeking a £400m cut in defence spending, but the Ministry of Defence is reluctant to do so. The Treasury is seeking a £400m cut in defence spending, but the Ministry of Defence is reluctant to do so. The Treasury is seeking a £400m cut in defence spending, but the Ministry of Defence is reluctant to do so.

City livery company
ices suit by guests

Unsubstantiated claims that the Society of Apothecaries, a livery company of 1,400 members, may be sued for damages of £100,000 after a party of 146 guests at their last June. The party was held at the company's premises in the City of London. The party was held at the company's premises in the City of London. The party was held at the company's premises in the City of London.

sh may have
led bomb
ds in Britain

Our Correspondent reports that a man in the Irish Republic has been charged with a bombing in Britain. The man is charged with a bombing in Britain. The man is charged with a bombing in Britain. The man is charged with a bombing in Britain.

feree fined
30 for fraud

An McNally, an international football referee, has been fined £30 for fraud. The referee was fined £30 for fraud. The referee was fined £30 for fraud. The referee was fined £30 for fraud.

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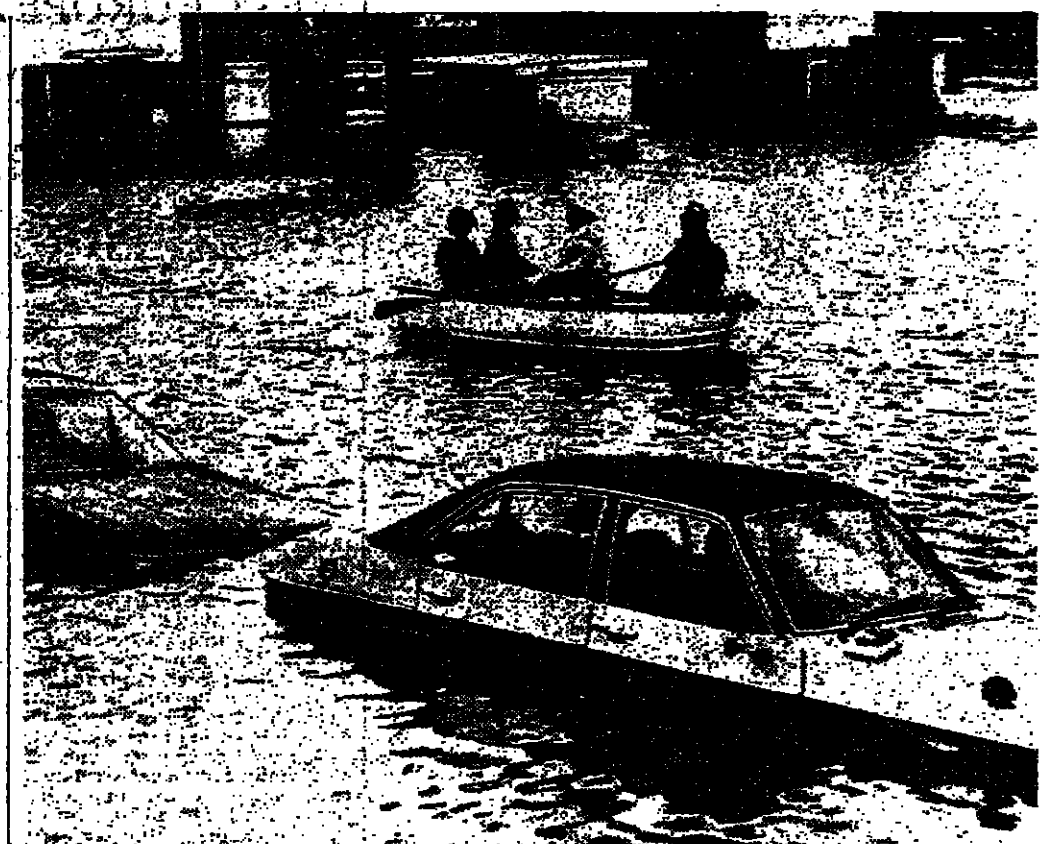
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Protests fail to
prevent
a deportation

A Pakistani whose case has aroused protests from immigrant organizations and lawyers is to be sent home today despite a last-minute fight to prevent his deportation. The man is to be sent home today despite a last-minute fight to prevent his deportation. The man is to be sent home today despite a last-minute fight to prevent his deportation.

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Ulster flood havoc: Soldiers and police in an Army inflatable boat keeping a watch yesterday on homes abandoned because of flooding in Manse Road, Newtownards, Co. Down, after 10 hours of rain in Northern Ireland and northern areas of the Irish Republic. Many roads, including the motorway between Ballymoney and Ballymena, in Co. Antrim, were closed. The Royal Ulster Constabulary said a number of rivers in Londonderry and Co. Tyrone were running dangerously high, and some were on the verge of bursting their banks. A spokesman said driving conditions throughout the province were hazardous and advised drivers to stay indoors if possible. Firemen reported that the road between Monaghan and Ballybay, Co. Monaghan, was flooded.

In brief

Ban on football
fan aged 82

Mr. Samuel Phillips, aged 82, has been banned by Herefordshire Football Association from attending Ledbury Town's home games for the rest of the season because of unruly behaviour. The ban is for the rest of the season because of unruly behaviour. The ban is for the rest of the season because of unruly behaviour.

Man and girl sought

An international search began yesterday after Mr. Justice Ewbank in the High Court authorized publicity in the case of Alder John Tatum, who is missing with his daughter Calu, aged six, who was said to have been snatched from her grandparents' home in Manchester last month.

Dublin pay agreement

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions yesterday accepted a wage agreement covering 15 months which will give increases of about 16 per cent to 800,000 workers in the republic. The agreement covers 15 months which will give increases of about 16 per cent to 800,000 workers in the republic.

Youths arrested

Five youths were arrested yesterday after fighting outside Bristol magistrates' court during the committal hearing of charges arising from the city riot in April. The youths were arrested after fighting outside Bristol magistrates' court during the committal hearing of charges arising from the city riot in April.

X-ray plates plea

King's Lynn hospital, Norfolk, where the X-ray records of 15,000 patients were stolen, appeared yesterday for their return. The hospital appeared yesterday for their return. The hospital appeared yesterday for their return.

DPP calls for file

The Director of Public Prosecutions called yesterday for a police file on the case in which a BBC *National* team was arrested while filming a programme about the illegal sport of dog-baiting.

Car death charge

David John Davies, aged 31, Pen-y-bryn, Mid. Glamorgan, was charged last night with the murder of his wife, Janice, whose body was found in their burnt-out car on Saturday.

Woman dies at 111

Mrs. Florence Pannell, aged 111, believed to be Britain's oldest inhabitant, has died at an old people's home in west London.

Scottish bishop dies

The Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway in the Episcopal Church in Scotland, the Right Rev. Frederick Goldie, died yesterday aged 66.

Changes needed in research
funding, Lord Flowers says

By Our Education Correspondent. The dual support system of funding university research has broken down, Lord Flowers, rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, said yesterday. British universities were no longer able to cover all the overhead costs associated with research. The dual support system of funding university research has broken down, Lord Flowers, rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, said yesterday.

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Anglican community faces some candid criticisms
Church of England's soul on trial

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent. An examination of the state of the Church of England's soul, by itself and by 17 other churches to probe its conscience, will take place next year. The church will be asked to state what it thinks it is for, and will be subjected to candid criticisms of its aims by the outsiders.

The process is called a "partners in mission consultation", which was invented by the Anglican Communion at a conference in Dublin in 1973. It is intended to turn the attention of other national churches in the Anglican Communion on each church, one by one. The Church of England's turn has now come.

The "mission" referred to in the project's title is taken to refer to the whole sense of purpose of the Church of England, starting in its own backyard. The Church of England will field a team which, with representatives of the other churches taking part, will study the church in depth next summer.

Predicted fall in overseas students
disproved, minister claims

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent. The number of overseas students who have accepted places at British universities on undergraduate courses starting this autumn is virtually the same as last year, despite the new high fees for overseas students, and despite the dire warnings from many universities.

The vice-chancellors' committee points out, however, that the figures relate to acceptances, not to actual admissions, and that the number of students who finally turn up is invariably lower than the number accepted.

The CVCP said yesterday that the latest figures suggested that the strenuous efforts made by universities to continue to attract overseas students had been successful. However, the figures needed to be treated with great caution.

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HOME NEWS

US court action over \$15,000 legacy left to Lord Lucan

By Richard Ford
A court action in the United States over a legacy will provide another twist in the case of Lord Lucan, the peer who disappeared six years ago after the death of his children's nursemaid in bankruptcy is bringing an action against the executors of the estate of his godmother, who have refused to pay the \$15,000 she left to him, on the grounds that he died before she did. As a result, under American law the money left by Mrs. Marcia Brady Tucker is not payable and should go to the other beneficiaries of her estate.

However, Mr. Dennis Gilson, an accountant, who is the trustee in bankruptcy, says that legally Lord Lucan is presumed to be alive, and was alive at the time of his godmother's death three years ago, and that the money should go to him.

He said: "The executors of the estate have refused to pay the money and we expect legal action over this to begin in New York before the end of the year."

He has given solicitors in the United States documents from Scotland Yard saying that Lord Lucan is still wanted, and told them that in Britain, in law, Lord Lucan is still considered to be alive.

In British law the money left by Lord Lucan to his godmother would automatically have gone to his next of kin, Mr. Gilson said. He believes the missing peer is still alive.

Next month in the London Bankruptcy Court, the official receiver will bring before the court a review, and the possible discharge, of Lord Lucan's bankruptcy, and in normal circumstances he could have expected a sympathetic hearing.

All his debts have been paid by the sale of his personal assets and with money from the family trust, and all that remains to be settled is the matter of interest on claims. Two assets remain unrealized, the legacy and a numbered bank account in Switzerland.

In law Lord Lucan can be presumed dead seven years after he disappeared.

Airlines' complaint on fees 'misleading'

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent
Eighteen foreign airlines with air traffic to the British Airports Authority to the High Court over its increase in charges at Heathrow might not have done their homework properly, Mr. John Mulken, managing director of the authority, suggested yesterday.

The authority's computer had indicated, he said, that similar times of flights as operated by the foreign airlines at Heathrow would cost Air France 8 per cent more, Lufthansa 11 per cent more, Swissair 11 per cent more, Austrian Airlines 8 per cent more, and Sabena 23 per cent more at Brussels.

The airlines are protesting about increases of 35 per cent in charges imposed by the authority at Heathrow, since April 1, and they allege that in individual cases the increases are as high as 100 per cent.

Mr. Mulken said the figures quoted by the airlines high-



The Duchess of Devonshire supervising the removal of a Van Dyck portrait from Chatsworth House, Derbyshire, for the forthcoming Royal Academy exhibition of Old Masters.

Cancer screening 'saves lives'

By Annabel Ferriman
Health Services Correspondent
Early detection of breast cancer can reduce the risk of death from the disease by almost a third, a new survey published yesterday claims.

Of 47,000 women screened for breast cancer at the British United Provident Association medical centre in London, which celebrated its tenth anniversary yesterday, more than 200 cases were diagnosed.

The centre announced that more than 70 per cent were alive and healthy six years after diagnosis, compared with less than 50 per cent of the average unscrutinized women.

Early detection had been made possible by the development of X-ray diagnosis (mammography) with a very low radiation dose. The centre claimed that if the tumour was detected by X-ray alone, that is, before a lump could be felt, the outlook for a complete cure might be 100 per cent.

Dr. H. Beric Wright, deputy chairman of the BUPA medical centre, said: "Breast cancer is still the biggest killer of middle-aged women, although it is rapidly being caught up by lung cancer and ischaemic heart disease."

For women aged 45-54, death rates in 1960 were 363 for breast cancer, 321 for ischaemic heart disease, and 96 for lung cancer. The corresponding figures for 1976 were 648, 510 and 267 deaths a million.

"The only hope for improving the outlook for breast cancer victims lies in early detection and simple local surgery. The medical centre has played a great role in developing the technology of X-ray diagnosis."

WEST EUROPE

Madrid accord opens way to granting Andalusian autonomy

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, Oct. 23
Andalusia, the biggest geographical region of Spain, will next year have an autonomous government, and parliament like the Basque country and Catalonia, as the result of an agreement signed in Madrid today between the Suarez Government and the opposition.

Since last February the devolution process has been stalled in the region because of a referendum, failed, on the basis of a majority of registered voters, as required by the constitution, in one of Andalusia's eight provinces. This generated resentment among most Andalusians, as the two northern regions went ahead with the setting up of their own institutions.

Repeated attempts to unravel a complicated legal situation only worsened the imbroglio. But a final face-to-face effort by the Prime Minister and Señor Felipe Gonzalez, leader of the Socialist Workers' Party, on talks lasting more than two hours yesterday, blocked the devolution process. Publicly, both sides said there had been neither victory nor vanquishment, but in fact the Suarez Government has made two important concessions, with the Communists, are in a majority in Andalusia.

This will allow every province to join fully in setting up an autonomous Andalusian region and the drafting of a statute.

To enable this, however, a Bill will be tabled as the opposition has demanded, to reform the constitution, so that the constitution's provision that the number of provinces should be less than five years.

The Government's second concession has been to allow elections for Andalusian regional parliament to be held next year, instead of being held as late as 1983, as the Communists demanded.

Señor Suarez has been worried about the effects of good government of a series of regional elections as more and more regions choose, despite the Suarez Government's warnings, to go ahead with the Communists, are in a majority in Andalusia.

It has dropped its strategy of

Pompidou adviser to stand for presidency

From Ian Murray
Paris, Oct. 23
Madame Marie-France, a former adviser to President Pompidou, has announced her candidacy for the French presidency.

Mme. Giscard, a 46-year-old lawyer who developed a career as the Eminence in the kitchen cabinet both when they were Ministers, announced her bid in a radio interview.

With the resignation of Giscard four years ago she returned from the limelight to her family life. She is the mother of a radio programme that she once made a bid for attention.

Her typical but unimpressive political career has been a subject of much speculation. She was once a candidate for the presidency, but was defeated by Giscard.

She has been a close adviser to Giscard, who has been a close adviser to Giscard, who has been a close adviser to Giscard.

East German money rules 'inhuman'

From Gretel Spitzer
Berlin, Oct. 23
In a show of solidarity, the Berlin Senate and the three parties of the city parliament today condemned the prohibitive currency regulations introduced by the East Germans.

"Under the rules, people visiting East Berlin and East Germany have to change a minimum of DM25 (about £5). This also applies to old age pensioners and children who were exempted from the entrance fee."

The result has been to reduce the number of daily visitors by almost 60 per cent, according to Herr Dietrich Stobbe in parliament. He predicted, from his experience, an even higher reduction in the number of people spending several days in East Germany.

Herr Stobbe described the regulations as inhuman and unsocial; they complicated contact between relatives and friends in the divided country, especially since many pensioners, who are allowed 30 days' each year for visiting, would be unable to pay DM 750 (about £150) a year for the right to visit.

He said that the DM 750 would have to be repaid up to DM 3,000 and this did not include fares and money spent on gifts.

The East German Government of making contact more difficult, instead of easier as specified by agreements, and of attending against the West.

He listed the various arguments and counter-arguments as the final Heligoland agreement that East Germany had violated by its prohibitive policy and assured parliament that everything possible would be done to get East Germany to revoke the currency regulations.

But there are indications that rather than relaxing the East German attitude is hardening.

Part of the space between the inner city walls, where occupied apartments, houses and shops are being filled with new obstacles, reminiscent of medieval torture instruments.

Stobbe said that carrying long queues of people, who are not allowed to enter the city, is a daily sight. He said that the regulations were a daily sight.

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Socialist groups gain strength in Plaid Cymru

From Tim Jones
Porthcawl
Plaid Cymru is expected to lurch firmly to the left after elections for key posts within the party during its annual conference, which began yesterday.

For many years it was difficult to pin a political label on the party, which embraced people of many views knitted together by a belief in self-determination.

It is still a broad church, but the tone of conference motions indicates that socialist groupings in the party are now in the ascendancy.

Three important posts are expected to be won by left-wing candidates, including that of vice-president, where Mr. Dafydd Elis Thomas, MP for Merioneth, is tipped to triumph. Traditionally that is a stepping stone to the presidency, although some senior party members believe Mr. Thomas would have to compromise on some policy matters before automatic promotion could be assumed.

While the mood of the rank and file is still jubilant after the success of the fourth television channel campaign, delegates will use the occasion to harness that energy before the euphoria wanes.

Mr. Emrys Roberts, Plaid's present vice-president, said yesterday: "The Tories are for turning. However much, Mr. Thatcher may protest to the contrary, Plaid's victory in the fourth channel campaign shows they can be forced to do a U-turn."

He said the people of Wales want to do something positive for their country, instead of merely playing at English party politics, they must unite behind Plaid Cymru and force the Government to do a U-turn.

Many owners ignore recall of vehicles for checks

By Our Motoring Correspondent
A total of 458,782 cars and commercial vehicles were recalled by manufacturers because of potential defects in the last 12 months, the Department of Transport disclosed yesterday.

The figures cover the first year of the code of practice on vehicle recall campaigns introduced by the department in consultation with the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

There were 76 campaigns, of which the biggest involved 65,600 BL Sherpa vans (launched in 1979).

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Board expects £5m thefts of electricity in a year

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs Correspondent
The London Electricity Board expects £5m to be stolen this year. The board's official estimate is that 1 per cent of all electricity used in the capital is illegally abstracted from the board's supply.

Mr. Alan Plumpton, the board's chairman, told the London Electricity Board Council's annual meeting yesterday that the Metropolitan Police say they do not have the resources to tackle the problem.

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Consumer group urges further boycott of veal

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Oct. 23
The main French consumer organization has called for a continuation of a boycott on veal after publicizing the results of a survey of 100 French households.

The survey, conducted by the Union Française des Consommateurs (UFCV), indicated that a boycott of veal last month in force action to stop the use of hormones in the rearing of calves. Although the use of these hormones increases the weight of the animals, the chemical reaction can leave toxins in the meat.

The survey carried out among 100 households in Paris and its suburbs, showed that 55 animals had been treated with hormones. The 55 all came from just four of the 40 abattoirs visited.

£100,000 grant planned to Welsh college

By Our Education Correspondent
The Government plans to give £100,000 for bursaries and scholarships to Atlantic College, an independent residential sixth-form college in South Wales, which provides a two-year international baccalaureate course for students aged 16 to 18 from all over the world. Fees this year are £3,200.

The Prince of Wales, president of United World Colleges, which includes Atlantic College, announced yesterday that the Prime Minister had told him that subject to approval by Parliament the Government would make a £100,000 contribution to the college through the Ministry of Education.

The Prince was speaking at a press day at Broadlands, the former home of Lord Mountbatten of Burma, in Hampshire, which was organized by the Prince of Wales to announce the official launching today of an appeal for funds.

Harm charge reduced in Docherty case

From Our Correspondent
Manchester
After hitting one man Mr. Tommy Docherty, the former Manchester United F.C. manager, turned to another one and said: "You are next, sonny." It was alleged at Manchester Crown Court yesterday.

Robert Meehan, aged 26, of Nicholas Road, Chorlton, Manchester, said during his trial, in which he has denied assault, that he had hit Mr. Docherty.

Mr. Docherty, who was hit in the head, said that he was hit in the head by Mr. Docherty.

Bullets were dumped on tip

From Our Correspondent
Porthsmouth
A civilian discovered 170 rounds of live rifle ammunition in a service box at the Oldcombe tip, near Yeovil, Somerset, it was alleged at Portsmouth yesterday. It had been dumped there by a young sub-Lieutenant serving at HMS Heron, in Yeovil.

Sub-Lieutenant Keith Elliott, aged 26, of Northill Road, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, admitted neglecting to hand the ammunition in to the proper authority. He was severely reprimanded, and fined £400.

Lieutenant Commander Timothy Fletcher, for the prosecution, said that the sub-Lieutenant had organized two shooting matches at the Mere ranges, in Wiltshire, drew ammunition from the armoury at HMS Heron and did not return unused rounds, but disposed of them at the rubbish tip.

Two former policemen sent to prison

From Our Correspondent
Sheffield
Two former South Yorkshire police officers were jailed at Sheffield Crown Court yesterday for nine months. James Wilde, aged 32, of Abbey Road, Dunsford, and Ian Moulds, aged 24, of Everingham Road, Canterbury, were charged with conspiring to pervert the course of justice as serving constables.

Mr. Martin Hargan, for the prosecution, said that PC Wilde concocted a story that a man found drunk had been seen driving a car erratically, and that was reluctantly supported by PC Moulds. When the man was accused of driving with excess alcohol, the prosecution withdrew the case and were ordered to pay £281 costs.

Further charges in post office raid case

Three men accused of offences connected with an armed raid on a sub-postoffice at Bollington, Cheshire, faced further charges at Wiltshire Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Peter Keogh, aged 29, of Hayes Avenue, Northern Moor, Greater Manchester, previously charged with armed robbery and attempting to murder Mr. Barbara Roberts, the postmistress, was also charged with deception.

His brother, John Keogh, aged 34, of no settled address, who was accused of armed robbery, was also further charged with deception.

Robert Fahy, aged 27, of Ashgate Avenue, Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester, originally charged with dishonestly receiving £600, illegally possessing a shotgun and assaulting a police officer, faced six further charges involving inflicting grievous bodily harm, assaulting a police officer, robbery and attempted robbery.

All three were remanded in custody for seven days. Two girls aged 15 and 16 accused of armed robbery, were also remanded for seven days.

Microwave ovens and deep freezers in most homes by year 2000, minister says

By Frances Gibb
A revolution in the way food is produced and eaten, caused by the microwave oven, the deep freezer and take-away foods, was predicted for Britain in the next 20 years by Mr. Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, last night.

In a statement on the future of the agriculture and food industries delivered at Wyke College, Kent, he outlined changes he believed would "have a considerable impact upon the nature of food production up to the year 2000."

Mr. Walker envisaged a "major advance" in the role of convenience foods suited to the single person household, and one where both husband and wife worked. "We shall be moving constantly towards a wider variety of 'complete meals, attractively presented and easy to serve', he said.

The microwave oven revolution was likely to become as common in Britain and Europe as in the United States, calling for the need to adapt the packaging of processed meals to meet its requirements.

In the past decade households possessing a freezer had grown from 41 per cent, and there was no reason why the proportion could not increase to 95 per cent in the years ahead.

The first food industry revolution was found in Britain with the fish and chip shop, expanded in America with the hamburger, diversified in both countries by the Chinese and Indian take-aways, will have an ever increasing expansion and diversification, demanding new methods by the food supplier.

Food technology will make a big impact. Mr. Walker went on to say that the recent revolutions in food preservation techniques, emphasizing the use of the deep freezer, had transformed the nature of food supplies.

"Much development is taking place on aseptic canning, where food is exposed to high temperatures for a short time prior to being sealed into the can, which is sterilized separately."

As for taste, the growing interest in health, coupled with better media communications, would transform the role of

Police drop plan to see 'Romans' play

The likelihood of immediate legal action over the alleged obscenity in the play *The Romans* in Britain, receded yesterday when Scotland Yard announced that the police had no plans to see the play.

Scotland Yard said it would consult the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Yard's obscene publications squad had arranged to attend the play at the National Theatre. Tonight's performance will be the first since it opened last Thursday.

Bomb scare halts the Paris stock exchange again

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Oct. 23
For the second day running, the Paris stock exchange was suspended after a bomb scare. The decision was taken by brokers "in order to calm emotions."

On Monday, a time-bomb containing 10lb of explosives was found on the floor of the Bourse when getting was highest. It was defused with minutes' spare.

Stricter security has been introduced and after the bomb scare yesterday it has been decided to have a night security patrol in the building.

Everyone entering the building is searched pending introduction of an identity card system.

Police have not found the bomber and nobody has claimed responsibility.

Better-off fled from squalor, traffic and crime

A Campaign for Urban Renaissance was launched in Amsterdam on Wednesday at a conference in London, organized by the Council of Europe. Inner-city decline has caused concern in Britain for some years. In the last of four articles on the subject, Robert Schuster, a Dutch architect, writes about Amsterdam.

The importance of living on the right side of town was dramatically illustrated during a recent congress in Amsterdam on health problems in large cities.

Delegates were told that people living in the modern and most expensive suburbs of the city can, on average, expect to live at least five years longer than those living in the decaying nineteenth-century quarters that surround the historic heart of the city. This conclusion, based on four years' research, became even more striking in the light of the known fact that cancer was eliminated as a cause of death, average life expectancy in the Netherlands would increase by 40 years.

The problems facing the city which has been called the "Venice of the North" are of a different order, but perhaps no less daunting than those facing the real Venice.

Amsterdam is said to have the biggest historic city centre in Europe. Nearly 7,000 buildings, built between the 15th and 17th centuries, are still standing. Some quarters are in a state of decay, but some are still in good condition.

Many of the people living in the inner city are of a different order, but perhaps no less daunting than those facing the real Venice.

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Attempt to rig stall

despite political dead

despite political dead

Pompidou
advised
to stand
president

WEST EUROPE



Cardinal Wysynski in Rome: Cardinal Wysynski, the Polish Primate, on arrival at Rome airport yesterday at the beginning of a two-week visit, during which he is expected to have several meetings with the Pope. There is a feeling of conviction in Rome that the Polish Workers' confidence

in insisting on their rights to a free trade union movement and the use of the strike weapon, to obtain it, came about because of the wide support they felt was theirs as a result of the strong international position of the papacy under its first Polish Pope (Peter Nichols writes from Rome).

Forlani Cabinet meets muted opposition

From Peter Nichols Rome, Oct 23

Signor Arnaldo Forlani, the incoming Prime Minister, can have a satisfactory outcome from the notably muted opposition to his new coalition which came from the Communists in the confidence debate today.

He succeeds a Government which encountered the heaviest opposition for years from the Communist Party. Signor Forlani, however, has reaffirmed today that the party would oppose the administration, but he was much more tender in his approach.

It was certainly not the Government that Italy needed to overcome the crisis facing it in all areas, he said, but added: "We are ready to give our contribution to resolve urgent questions and problems of our society positively. Knowing as well that there will be no lack of manoeuvres and efforts at putting off or eluding the solution of these problems, we shall struggle to make Parliament and the Government face them and decide with speed."

He was speaking on the opening day of the confidence debate in the Chamber of Deputies which is expected to end on Saturday. A favourable vote for the Government is assured. Signor Forlani has the support not only of his own Christian Democrats but also of the Socialists, the Republicans and Social Democrats.

The tone of the Communist opposition is, nevertheless,

important to him. The immediate problems are economic and political opposition from the Communists would be an obstacle to the ambitious plan he has outlined of dealing with economic problems.

Both Signor Forlani and Signor Berlinguer have sounded a new note of realism. The Prime Minister insisted that "the country required encouragement rather than gloom and refused to accept the catastrophic approach to Italy's troubles. He reaffirmed his faith in its native virtues."

However, there are criticisms in the press today of the somewhat bland way in which he listed all the issues facing his administration, which would require a very long time indeed if he were genuinely to tackle them all. The Rome newspaper *L'Espresso* pointed out that he might be expected to stay in office until about 2001.

Signor Berlinguer's careful attitude was in part dictated by divisions within the party on the outcome of the election. Signor Berlinguer is carefully recalling that he never directly encouraged the Fiat workers to occupy the factories, as it had been alleged in some sections of the press.

The unions themselves are also finding their failure to make the leadership of the whole rank-and-file of the Fiat workers had brought the need for self-questioning about the attitude to be adopted by the trade union movement in a "phase of greater realism."

Basque politician shot dead by terrorists

San Sebastian, Oct 23—Glenen believed to be Basque separatist murdered.

Basque politician and telephone company executive today, police said.

Senior Jaime Arrese, a member of the ruling Democratic Centre Union who was to take up a seat in the Basque town of Elgoibar where he was a former mayor.

Senior Juan Manuel Garcia Cordero, local director of the National Telephone Company, was found shot through the head in the hills outside San Sebastian.—Reuters

Sheep die near Italian chemical disaster factory

Desio, Italy, Oct 23—About 150 sheep died last night

gazing on land contaminated by dioxin gas that escaped from a chemical factory at Seveso in 1976, police said.

They died where grazing and cultivation had been banned since the pollution at the Swiss-owned factory which caused liver infection and skin diseases in at least 1,000 local people.

Senior Silvio Desiderati, the Mayor of Desio, said examinations of two of the sheep showed "there was no direct connection between the death of the animals and dioxin poisoning" but that there could be a causal connexion.—UPL

Attempt to right capsized oil rig starts today

By Nicholas Hirst

Energy Correspondent

The Alexander Kieland, the oil rig which capsized in Norwegian waters with the loss of 123 lives in March, is expected to be righted next week.

All preliminary work to ballast the remaining four legs of the rig has been completed. Computer-controlled ballasting to turn the Kieland over gradually will begin tomorrow and is expected to be completed within seven days.

The 10,000 tonne rig, which has been towed to Stavanger, has had 375 buoyancy bags, each with a displacement of five tonnes, attached to it. The

buoyancy chambers in each remaining leg are to be pumped with air. The fifth leg snapped, causing the rig to turn over.

Lifting of the rig is a joint venture of the British group SD Marine of Southampton and Nicosverken Norge A.C. a Norwegian ship repair company. The contract is worth £4m. The insurance value of the rig, which is expected to see service again, is £25m.

OVERSEAS

Church ready to help Polish authorities keep national stability

From Dossa Trevisan Warsaw, Oct 23

Assurances of constructive cooperation between the Polish Communist Party and the Roman Catholic Church in the interests of Poland's independence and security were expressed at a meeting yesterday between Cardinal Wysynski, the Polish Primate, and Mr Stanislaw Kahia, the party leader.

It comes only a few days after the meeting in Poland of Warsaw Pact foreign ministers and on the eve of the Warsaw district court hearing which ought to decide on the formal registration of Solidarity, the independent union.

The Catholic church has given its unequivocal support to the workers in their demands as well as to the independent unions, but it has also urged them to work.

The authorities have publicly recognized this as a positive reaction, reflecting concern for the nation and the stability of the country, which is of common interest to all.

A brief statement, published at the end of yesterday's meeting said that good relations between the authorities and the church are of great importance to domestic peace and in the interests of the country's security.

Poland's population of 36 million is overwhelmingly Catholic and in the present situation, when the party needs to regain its credibility, the church's authority is clearly what counts.

On past occasions it was the church's voice to which the people listened in times of crisis and turmoil. On this occasion also the church has assumed its responsibility and taken the line that at the present juncture it is necessary to calm down and consolidate the workers' gains. The church was obviously aware of the dangers if tension was perpetuated.

No one here concealed the fact that Poland's allies while accepting the Polish leadership's political arguments in

favour of reform, are sceptical about its effects.

Fears that this might affect the country's stability are obvious. This is therefore, a crucial moment for Poland as the agreements are beginning to be implemented and the country enters a new stage.

This is why the registration of Solidarity has become of great importance as the delays increase the risk of new labour protests. Tomorrow, the Warsaw district court and representatives of the union's coordinating committee, headed by Mr Lech Walesa, will meet in an attempt to find a compromise.

The authorities are contesting the statutes and insisting on explicit recognition of the party's leading role, pointing out the union's commitment in the agreement signed in Gdansk and elsewhere. Union experts, however, say the explicit pledge to work within the constitution makes this point. There is a good chance of the issue being settled.

New problems are brewing with railway workers in Wroclaw pressing the authorities for wage increases for the lowest paid categories and 34 railway workers' beginning hunger strikes in protest against an alleged breach of agreement. They want the lowest wages to be doubled.

Workers in the big Ursus tractor plant in Warsaw stopped work for several hours this morning demanding a wage increase of 750 zlotys (£11). When the strike threatened to spread to the afternoon shift, Mr Walesa intervened and asked the workers to suspend action while negotiations with the minister went on.

The Government is prepared to meet the demand only half way, pleading for understanding because it simply cannot increase wages at the present difficult time. Already about 10 million workers have received increases which the Government had hoped to award in gradual stages until next summer.

S. African opposition party fails to take seat

From Nicholas Ashford Johannesburg, Oct 23

The opposition Progressive Federal Party (PFP), today failed in its attempt to capture the East London (North) constituency in a by-election.

The seat was held by the New Republic Party (NRP)—the remnants of the old United Party—whose candidate, Mr Harland Bell, polled 5,155 votes. The PFP's candidate, Mr John Malcomness, who caused the by-election by resigning the seat after leaving the NRP to join the PFP earlier this year, won 3,783 votes.

Although the size of the NRP's majority was reduced, the result was a severe disappointment to the PFP, particularly as it came only a month after the PFP failed to capture the Simonstown constituency from the ruling National Party.

Mr Frederick Van Zyl Slabbert, the PFP leader, attempted to place the best interpretation on the result by pointing out that his party had increased its support both in Simonstown and East London.

However, party officials have conceded that the PFP's decision to boycott the new President's Council together with the Government's own cautious reformist policies are making it increasingly difficult for the party to win over voters.

This point was emphasized today by Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, who said the result was a rejection of "leftist radicalism."

Briton murdered in Hollywood

Los Angeles, Oct 23—A British tourist, identified as Geoffrey Lancashire, aged 35, a draughtsman from Oldham, Lancashire, has been found stabbed to death in a Hollywood hotel, police said today.

He was apparently murdered on Monday night. His room had been ransacked, but it was not immediately known what was missing.—Reuters

American commentary

Patrick Brogan

Period of paralysis in Washington foreseen

On Tuesday week, Americans will elect a president, a Vice-President, 34 Senators and 435 members of the House of Representatives.

They will also elect a number of governors and state legislators in a number of states and a vast variety of other officials.

Everyone of course pays most attention to the presidential election, but whoever wins that contest will have to cope with a new Congress, and it is possible to foresee already a period of total paralysis. The Republicans are going to pick up enough seats, particularly in the Senate, to frustrate Mr Carter completely, if he wins, but not enough to enable Mr Reagan to govern effectively, if he should win.

Members of the House have two-year terms, and therefore spend most of their time, particularly in their first few terms, running for reelection. Senators have six-year terms, and a third of the Senate is elected every two years.

In 1978, 20 new Senators were elected, including one woman, Mrs Nancy Kassebaum, a Republican from Kansas, the first woman to be elected on her own (all the others succeeded husbands who had been members of Congress). Ten Senators up for reelection were defeated, three in primaries, seven in the general election.

This time four Senators have been defeated in their primaries and there is a good chance that even more incumbents will lose their seats than last time. Only five are retiring voluntarily. There will be more women and fewer Jews (still Japanese Americans will still have 3 per cent of the Senate). It will, at all events, be a more conservative assembly.

In the House, members have usually assumed that their tenure was much more firmly assured than that of Senators. The chairman of a number of important committees have discovered to their horror that this may no longer be true. Mr Al Ullman, chairman of the Ways and Means committee, has to fight for his life to hold

Mr Reagan hurt by warmonger taunt

From David Cross Washington, Oct 23

President Carter has probably increased his chances of victory in the November 4 election by exploiting the war-and-peace issue against his Republican opponent. Mr Reagan acknowledged as much in an interview with the *Washington Post* published today.

"I felt he would try to make me the issue of the campaign and he obviously did by using this warmongering charge," the Republican candidate said. But he added that he was confident of turning the campaign back to what he felt was the main issue of the campaign, Mr Carter's "record of failure," when he debates with the President on television next Tuesday.

During a day of campaigning in the South yesterday, Mr Reagan promised that he would eschew comments on the fate of the 52 American hostages in Iran during the final stages of the election campaign.

On Tuesday, he had said that the continued captivity of the hostages was a "humiliation and disgrace" to the United States. Mr Carter countered this allegation by accusing his opponent of breaking an earlier pledge not to make "a political football" out of the issue of the hostages.

Instead Mr Reagan continued to pound away at Mr Carter's record with claims that "the man who is asking for four more years isn't competent to do the job."

Mr Carter, who was also campaigning in his native South, yesterday showed no signs of dropping the personal attacks on his opponent which he has made the hallmark of his campaign. Accepting a pair of cowboy boots in Texas, the President remarked that the Republicans had "a habit of spreading a lot of horse manure around right before election time. Lately as you know, it's getting pretty deep all over the country."

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Mr Muldoon survives party revolt

From Our Correspondent Wellington, Oct 23

Mr Robert Muldoon, the Prime Minister, re-established his grip on government leadership today after weeks of simmering revolt. The fire went out of the rebels when Mr Brian Talboys, deputy to Mr Muldoon and Foreign Minister, refused to sign a motion at today's meeting of government MPs.

Mr Talboys, who returned from Europe yesterday, had been courted as Mr Muldoon's replacement, but he told the caucus that he believed the leadership was not in contention.

The plot by backbenchers and some Cabinet ministers was hatched while Mr Muldoon was on an extended tour abroad. Their complaints turned principally on his aggressive style of economic management and when the Prime Minister returned last week he was met by a campaign vigorously in public claiming that only he could lead his National Party to victory in next year's elections.

His populist strategy embroiled the party hierarchy by exposing the extent of rifts in the Government, but the response to his direct appeal enabled him to convince the wavering that his critics were not representative.

On the radio this morning, Mr Muldoon made no apology. He dismissed those who sought his resignation as being "wet behind the ears" and declared that "tossing down" his style would be "totally out of character" with Robert Muldoon.

Libyan account of Colorado shooting rejected

Washington, Oct 23—The State Department has rejected Libyan explanations of the attempted murder of Colonel Gaddafi's regime.

The head of the Libyan diplomatic mission claimed that Fayçal Zagall, aged 35, a student at the University of Colorado, was shot twice in the head at his home by members of a "world revolutionary committee."

Mr Zagall is in hospital at Fort Collins, Colorado, and his condition is said to be fair.

The Libyan news agency JANA last Friday charged that he was a spy for United States intelligence services, an accusation that a State Department official yesterday called "an outrageous acknowledgement" of Libyan involvement in the shooting.—Agence France-Press.

Three executed in Mozambique

Lisbon, Oct 23—The Mozambique Government announced that three men tried for espionage and military sabotage had been executed last week by firing squad, bringing to 39 the number of executions in the last 19 months.

Police arrested 400 "marginals, bandits and criminals" last weekend in Beira. The "marginals" (prostitutes and hoodlums) would be sent to the "marginals" and the others would be tried.—UPL

OVERSEAS

Saudi-Libyan relations deteriorate as King Khalid accuses Colonel Gaddafi of insulting Islam

From Tewfik Mishlawi
Beirut, Oct. 23

Relations between Saudi Arabia and Libya took a turn for the worse this week when King Khalid sent a sharply worded message to Colonel Gaddafi, accusing the Libyan leader of being a "spearhead against Islam and Islamic sanctities".

The move was rare in Saudi Arabia's diplomatic conduct. King Khalid went out of his way to defend his country's acquisition of four United States Air Force radar and monitoring aircraft which prompted the Libyan leader to declare on Sunday that Saudi Arabia and the Muslim holy places in it were "under American occupation".

Saudi Arabia requested the aircraft soon after the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war. Their purpose was to monitor military activities in the Gulf area for the Saudis and Americans.

King Khalid's rebuke, broadcast by the Saudi State Radio

yesterday, was in reply to a message which he said he had received from Colonel Gaddafi, urging him to demand the immediate withdrawal of the American aircraft from Saudi Arabia.

Arab diplomats in Beirut said they would not be surprised if the two countries broke off diplomatic relations. What seems to have upset the Saudis most was the fact that the Libyan campaign coincided with the high point of the Muslim Haj (pilgrimage) season and the feast of Al Adha (sacrifice).

About two million Muslims from all over the world were in Saudi Arabia for the pilgrimage last weekend.

The Saudis were also angered by Colonel Gaddafi's bringing the Muslim holy places into the dispute. On the first day of the Haj, the Libyan leader claimed that "American military aircraft were flying over Mecca and Medina" where Islam's holiest places are located.

Under such conditions, he

added, "the practice of Islamic rituals is an exercise in hypocrisy".

The Saudi-Libyan conflict is the latest addition to the continually growing number of inter-Arab disputes. It not only widens the split in Arab ranks, but also sharpens the polarization of Arab countries between East and West, especially in view of American and Soviet attempts to gain wider influence in the region.

While the United States acquired military facilities in Oman, Somalia and Kenya this year, the Soviet Union this month signed a long term friendship and cooperation agreement with Syria. There have been reports that Colonel Gaddafi will also visit Moscow later this year to sign a similar agreement.

With the Arab world more divided now than at any time it is not clear how Arab heads of state plan to handle their scheduled summit in Amman next month.

Threat to try hostages if demands not met

Tehran, Oct. 23.—The American hostages held in Iran will be "tried immediately" if the United States refuses to accept Iran's conditions for their release, a member of the parliamentary committee on the hostages said here today.

Hojatoleslam Musavi Khomeini, one of the seven members of the committee, said: "The chief conditions of the release of the hostages are the release of the Ayatollah Khomeini's conditions. There will be others but they will be within this framework."

An American has been arrested and is being held in Iran in addition to the 52 diplomatic hostages and a freelance writer, the State Department said in Washington today.

Mr George Havens, a spokesman for the Department's working group on Iran, said the man, Mr Mohai Sobhani, aged 44, an Iranian by birth and a naturalized American citizen, was arrested in Iran last month and is held on unspecified charges.

"The Swiss have been trying to get access to him, but so far have been unable to do so. We know of no formal charges," Mr Havens said. The United States Government has been working through the Swiss Embassy in Tehran on the hostages issue.

Iran says Iraqi night raid on Abadan repulsed

From Our Correspondent
Beirut, Oct. 23

Iran said today that its forces defending the beleaguered oil centre of Abadan thwarted an overnight Iraqi attempt to pierce the city's defence lines. It indicated that fuel shortages were becoming worse after the destruction of several oil pipelines. Domestic fuel rationing has been announced.

The Iranian Red Crescent (the Muslim equivalent of the Red Cross) announced that about 1,325 Iranian civilians were killed and 6,000 others wounded in various towns in the oil province of Khuzestan during nearly five weeks of hostilities.

The heaviest casualties occurred in the provincial capital of Ahwaz. The Red Crescent said 516 civilians were killed and 2,108 wounded.

The Iraqi attempt to control the besieged city of Abadan was accompanied by a prolonged air raid on the city, causing heavy civilian casualties. Tehran radio said Iraqi land forces have cut off the city from the rest of Iran in the hope of forcing its inhabitants to surrender.

In a counter-attack, Iranian helicopter gunships concentrated their fire on Iraqi supply lines in an attempt to isolate the advanced Iraqi troops on

the fringes of Abadan and the port city of Khorramshahr, near by. Iran said an Iraqi pontoon bridge on the River Karun was destroyed.

An Iraqi military communiqué today said Iraqi forces were "continuing to clean up enemy pockets of resistance on all sections of the battle front". It put Iranian losses at 24 killed, together with four tanks, 10 vehicles and a fuel dump destroyed.

Iraqi losses were given as 25 killed and five military vehicles destroyed. Both sides claimed they sank each other's warships and shot down attacking jets.

The Iranians said they pushed the Iraqis back at Khorramshahr and their forces made headway farther north near the Iraqi-held border town of Qasr-E-Shirah.

Tehran Radio said that gas oil rationing has been set at 132 gallons a month per household but the date for putting the programme into effect will be announced later.

Dr Saadoun Hamad, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, said in an interview published in Amman today that Iraq "has no conditions to make for a halt to hostilities. All that Iraq wants is to have Iran recognize our sovereign and territorial rights and stop interfering in the internal affairs of other countries in the region."

New Soviet Premier began career as an engine driver's assistant

The colourless man who finally rose to power in the wake of Mr Kosygin's heart attacks

From Michale Binyon
Moscow, Oct. 23

Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the new Soviet Prime Minister, is a relatively colourless figure who has spent virtually all his political life in the Soviet economic and planning apparatus.

His appointment as Prime Minister, in the absence of any more senior figure in the Politburo with the necessary background and experience, means that this post is now held by a less significant figure than at virtually any other time since the founding of the Soviet Union.

Mr Tikhonov was born in Khar'kov in the Ukraine and began his career as an engine driver's assistant on the railways. He was educated at the Metallurgical Institute in Dnepropetrovsk, the Ukrainian town where Mr Brezhnev also began his political career.

After the Second World War the two men worked together to rebuild industry in the region.

Much of Mr Tikhonov's early career was spent in heavy industry, working in plants and factories, and then holding senior political posts at the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy.

He became a deputy chairman of the State Economic Council in 1960, then went to the State Planning Committee and, since 1965, has been a Deputy Prime Minister. He rose to the position of First Deputy Prime Minister only four years ago when Mr Kosygin, only one year his senior, had his first heart attack.

From then on he rose quickly, mainly due to Mr Kosygin's ill health, effectively taking over his job last October.



Mr Tikhonov: Once reproached for overspending.

He joined the party in 1940 but did not become a candidate member of the Politburo until 1976 and was made a full member last year.

His closeness to Mr Brezhnev would make him a compatible colleague at the top of the Soviet hierarchy but he clearly lacks the authority of many other senior figures, most of whom have been voting mem-

bers of the full Politburo and therefore privy to the innermost discussions of the Soviet leadership far longer than he has.

Mr Tikhonov is in no position to rise any further and can be ruled out as a contender for the party leadership should Mr Brezhnev die. As Prime Minister, a job which now appears to have a purely internal economic dimension, he is not expected to change course or introduce any radical reforms.

However, he is faced with the daunting task of trying to revive the sluggish economy and to put into effect his own complicated, planning decrees which were meant to make the economy more responsive to the needs of the country.

In his memoirs Mr Tikhonov describes how Mr Brezhnev, then a director of a steel pipe factory, was reprimanded for spending too much money without authorization on a "sanatorium" for his workers. Mr Brezhnev, in his account, successfully defended him against the criticism of the minister of the steel industry, who asked Mr Tikhonov: "Who do you think you are, Rockefeller?"

Mr Tikhonov, like Mr Kosygin, is a rather quiet, grey-haired man. His wife, Ekaterina, died earlier this month, and an inquiring hint that he was going to marry again was quickly put to rest.

Pravda carried an official announcement of her death and condolences from Soviet leaders.

It is extremely unusual for the party newspaper to print details of the families of party leaders unless, some, special mark of recognition is intended. Leading article, page 13

Uganda missionaries taken prisoner

New York, Oct. 23.—Four missionaries — three Britons and an American — are being held prisoners in the West Nile district of Uganda, the mission they worked for reported today.

The Rev Peter Stam, director of the African Inland Mission, said he had learnt from Nalrohi that the four had been captured in Kuluwa, in the West Nile district, where the mission operates a hospital.

It was unclear whether the captives were being held by forces of Idi Amin, the former President, or Ugandan Government troops, though it was probably by the latter. Government forces recently counter-attacked in the area and reclaimed control.

He identified the three Britons as Maurice Moore, a nurse in the hospital, Jov Jov, a secondary school teacher in her sixties, and Paul Begg, aged 27, who had been assigned to the area on a short-term basis for building and maintaining work. Laura Barr, an American, is a translator in her sixties.

Court stays exile of Arab mayors

Jerusalem, Oct. 23.—The Israeli Supreme Court today issued a temporary injunction forbidding the Government from deporting the mayors of two West Bank towns. Laura Barr, an American, is a translator in her sixties.

The mayors of Hebron and Halhoul were deported in May, after six Jews were killed in Hebron. — Reuters

Delhi considering transfer of high court judges

From Kuldeep Nayar
Delhi, Oct. 23

The Government is reported to be examining a proposal to transfer the chief justices of all high courts in the country.

Mr Shiv Shankar, the Law Minister, who has initiated the move, believes that an outside chief justice will administer the courts more independently than the present ones. His argument is that the transfer of judges is a matter of policy which the executive should have the right to implement.

Mr Justice Y. V. Chandrachud, the Chief Justice of India, who is consulted before such transfers, has said that he is willing to take up specific cases but

not give blanket power to the Government.

Mr Shiv Shankar and Mr Justice Chandrachud have discussed the matter many times and both have stood their ground. In fact, the Law Minister has gone beyond his earlier suggestion of transferring a few chief justices. Now the proposal is to cover all.

The proposal has leaked out and it has created resentment among the chief justices and judges. They not only feel hurt by the suggestion that they are not independent but also fear that their functioning may suffer because of lack of knowledge of local languages and laws.

Israel steps up Lebanon raids

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Oct. 23

Underpinned by international condemnation, Israel has in the past week stepped up its pre-emptive strikes against Palestinian targets inside Lebanon.

Today Israeli warships were said to be shelling targets around the port of Tyre, a Palestinian stronghold. The attack followed yesterday's heavy bombing of a Palestinian camp close to Beirut and, last Thursday, an infantry assault which killed about a dozen guerrillas based a few miles north of Israel's border.

Arab commentators explain the sudden display of Israeli military might as the unwillingness of the Carter Administration to upset the Jewish lobby so near to the American elec-

tion by voicing too much anger at the raids.

In fact, the State Department was quick to condemn last week's infantry assault, pointing out that American opposition to such "provocations" was well known. But Israeli strategic planners have been confident that American displeasure would not amount to more than the usual verbal complaints.

Leading Palestinian sources in Beirut have also accused Israel of trying "to profit" from the Gulf war, which has diverted attention by proceeding with its new policy of random attacks on Palestinian targets throughout Lebanon.

Leaving yesterday's air raid deep inside that section of Lebanese territory under the control of the Syrian forces, Israel has been accused of trying to test the Syrians in the wake of the recent friendship treaty with the Soviet Union.

Senior military sources in Israel have been trying hard to play down the significance of the recent attacks, describing them as nothing out of the ordinary and part of the stated policy of attacking Palestinian targets at any time and in any place.

There is satisfaction in military circles at the outcome of the recent raids.

Army spokesmen claim that using intelligence-gathering techniques to pinpoint Palestinian targets and then hitting them without warning is significantly reducing Palestinian attacks against Israel.

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대한민국의 신문

Uganda
missionary
taken
prisoner

OVERSEAS Ban on Hongkong jobs for unregistered Chinese immigrants

From Richard Hughes
Hong Kong, Oct 23
Capitalist and Communist Canton drew more closely together today when Sir Murray MacLehose, the Governor, delivered his address to the Colonial Legislative Council, proclaiming, as predicted, that no longer will illegal Chinese immigrants be permitted to remain in Hong Kong.

In December, 1974, Hong Kong reluctantly ceased to be a sanctuary for all Chinese refugees. No more were to be taken in by the government and cross the border into Hong Kong.

Since then, illegal immigrants who managed to "touch base" in urban areas or with friends and relatives in Hong Kong after meeting past both communist and Hong Kong armed patrols, have been allowed to remain.

This indulgence was abolished last year, when the Foreign Secretary, and Mr. Huang Hua, the Chinese Foreign Minister met in London earlier this month.

The cooperation of the Chinese authorities on the problem of illegal immigrants was well known and of long standing, the Foreign Office said yesterday. It added that Mr. Huang Hua had raised no objection to the proposals.

Sir Murray MacLehose will be coming to London on a routine visit on Saturday week.

Curfew in Zambia after farm gun fight

Lusaka, Oct 23.—President Kaunda today ordered a curfew in most urban areas until further notice, the Zambian Government announced.

No reason was given. Dr Kaunda ordered the curfew on the eve of Zambia's sixteenth anniversary of independence, under the Preservation of Public Security law, a statement said.

There was a gun fight a week ago between security forces and about 50 men camped on a farm near Lusaka.

The Times of Zambia newspaper, today quoted police sources as saying 50 people had been arrested in connection with the fight. It was not clear whether this meant the gunmen, or included people suspected of being involved with them.

The curfew will affect Lusaka, the northern Copperbelt region, Kabwe in central Zambia, and Kapiri Mposhi, where the Trans-Zambia railway joins the Zambian system. Livingstone, near the Victoria Falls, on the Zimbabwe border, was not mentioned.

The curfew would begin at 7 pm tonight and end at 6 am until further notice, it stated. "It is an offence for anybody not to comply with this order, and those people who do not comply with this order will be liable to arrest and prosecution," Reuters.



Queen to help earthquake victims: Homeless victims of the El Asnam earthquake, many of them housed in makeshift accommodation like this Algerian Government camp, are to receive help from the Queen. On its way to fly her home from North Africa, the aircraft is taking a gift of 14 tons of canned meat to Algeria on Sunday.

This latest shipment brings the total of British aid to about £500,000. Yesterday the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh toured the Great Mosque of Kairouan in southern Tunisia. Permission for non-Muslims to enter the mosque, built 13 centuries ago, is granted only rarely to honoured visitors. The royal couple had sailed overnight in the Royal Yacht Britannia from Tunis to El Kantaoui.

Champion of Brazil poor claims papal support

By Peter Strafford
The pastoral line of the Roman Catholic Church in Brazil with its defence of the poor, was approved by the Pope on his recent visit, Dom Helder Camara, Archbishop of Olinda and Recife, said in London yesterday.

The Brazilian Government had hoped that the Pope would attack the viewpoints of such progressive church leaders as the Archbishop and Cardinal Evaristo Arns, Archbishop of São Paulo. He had not done so, and that meant that the Government could have no illusions about Rome's backing for the church's line.

Dom Helder Camara has become well known for his active defence of the poor in Brazil, particularly in the poverty-stricken Northeast. He has not hesitated to criticize the military Government and big financial interests, and this has led to official hostility towards him.

But it would not be so easy now to call him a "red bishop," he said yesterday, after the Pope had given his approval. He preferred to be called an evangelical bishop.

Dom Helder Camara is visiting Britain at the invitation of the Catholic Institute for International Relations and Oxford. He spoke enthusiastically yesterday of religion as a force for liberation of the poor, and said engaging in politics was not just a right, but a duty.

Large stretches of land in Brazil, he said, were being bought by corporations to develop large-scale agriculture. This meant driving off the families who were living on the land. They were being treated like invaders, or even subversives, because they did not have proper documents to prove ownership.

The poor should not take up arms, he said, because they would be crushed by the Brazilian armed forces, and if they looked for arms from some outside "empire" that would lead to outside domination. They should use instead all the forms of moral and political pressure available.

Acupuncture criticized by two Chinese professors

Peking, Oct 23.—Acupuncture, used on two million people since the 1950s and one of the few surviving vestiges of Maoist China, came under severe criticism today.

The Shanghai newspaper, *Veritatis*, carried denunciations by Professor Gao Xichen and Professor Tang Nihuang, both Shanghai doctors, of the political use made of the method during the Cultural Revolution.

They cast doubt on the method and denounced the surgical scenes set up to impress foreign visitors. Many doctors and patients were forced to use acupuncture anesthesia in the past, they said, "emphasizing the enormous courage required from patients who even though in pain did not dare cry out" because of the political necessities of the time.

Some patients were even forced to shout political slogans, they said.

Foreigners were able to see open heart surgery using acupuncture during which the patient read aloud from the *Little Red Book* of quotations from Chairman Mao.

This is the first time that acupuncture has been attacked in this way in the official press. The two professors said that in their hospital, which they did not name, nearly 30,000 operations had been carried out under acupuncture anesthesia since 1969 and 1977 with a 60 to 85 per cent success rate. However, in many cases pain did not entirely disappear, they said.

The two Shanghai doctors said chemical anesthesia had been used in many operations in the past, while the needles had been stuck into the patient for the benefit of the audience.

—Agence France-Press.

Jail for guerrilla commander in Zimbabwe

Salisbury, Oct 23.—A senior commander of the Zambian guerrilla forces was imprisoned for eight years today for the attempted murder of a white couple. Zanka is the military wing of Zanu (PF) the party of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister.

Mr Charles Maredza was found guilty by a white judge of shooting Maria Ioannides and attempting to shoot her friend, Mr Michael Yeo in the early hours of May 10.

Shots were fired at Mr Yeo's car as it accelerated from an intersection where they had stopped and been delayed by Mr Maredza, the court heard.

Mr Maredza's driver, Mr Ishmael Hywata, was acquitted of a charge of attempted murder. Both pleaded not guilty.

—AP.

Ending of Canada debate opposed

From John Best
Ottawa, Oct 23
The amendments provide, among other things, a formula for revising the constitution once it is in Canada. Under the Government's closure motion, debate will end at 1 am tomorrow. The resolution will then go to the Senate for consideration before being turned over to a joint committee of the two Houses for detailed study.

The government timetable calls for the resolution to be back in the Commons by December 9 for final approval.

The closure move came just as the Commons prepared to debate a motion of "no confidence" by the Tory opposition.

The motion was defeated by the Liberals and New Democrats.

Mr Clark, leading the move against the government proposals, said of the closure motion:

"They (the Liberals) want to cut off debate. They want to stop the right of Canadians and the Canadian parliament to discuss the constitution of Canada."

Mr Edward Broadbent, leader of the New Democrats, described the government move as "premature" and "completely counterproductive," but Mr Yvon Pinard, the government leader in the Commons, said the Conservatives had pushed the Government into invoking closure "because they wanted to make an issue out of it."

Today, at a press conference, Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, accused the opposition of using "spurious" points of order and privilege to disrupt the Government's timetable.

More diplomatic posts filled by Mr Mugabe

From Our Correspondent
Salisbury, Oct 23
The Zimbabwe Government has appointed three new ambassadors, a High Commissioner and a number of senior staff to other diplomatic posts.

A senior member of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front party and an MP, Mr Aris Chamusca, has been appointed Ambassador to West Germany; Mr Sifas Zhou, a teacher, has been named Ambassador to Sweden; and a high-ranking member of the governing Zanu (PF) party, Mr John Mvumba, is to be Ambassador to Mozambique.

Mr Farai Masangano, a Zanu (PF) MP, will be High Commissioner in Tanzania.

Laotians held for opposition to Vietnam control

From Our Correspondent
Bangkok, Oct 23
Several thousand Laotians, including many government officials, have been arrested in the past six months because of their "anti-Vietnamese attitudes," according to Western intelligence sources in Bangkok, and Vietnam.

Some of them had since been released, the sources said, but many were being held in reeducation camps in remote areas of the country. The campaign against people opposed to Vietnam's control of Laos has intensified in the past fortnight with about 500 arrests in that period.

The intelligence sources, discounting reports that Chinese sympathizers were plotting a coup against the Government, said the Government was repressing more and more of the running of the country into its hands.

Vietnam has between 40,000 and 50,000 troops in Laos in addition to several thousand advisers and technical experts at almost every level of the administration. There are also about 2,000 Soviet experts, and these two foreign groups effectively run the country. Some Vietnamese officials are accompanied by their families.

Press blamed for failure of conservation efforts

By Tony Samstag
A Ghanaian botanist yesterday blamed the press for the relative ineffectiveness of international conservation efforts, particularly regarding tropical rain forests.

Professor Edward Ayensu, Director of Biological Conservation for the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, was especially critical of what he saw as a tendency to concentrate on "catastrophes" while neglecting more serious issues of environmental concern.

For example, the World Conservation Strategy issued earlier this year by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, had received a "smattering" of attention when it was launched, but almost none of the ensuing discussion was covered.

The professor was speaking at the London office of the World Wildlife Fund in connection with the publication of a book on tropical rain forests entitled *Jungles* and published by Jonathan Cape at £16.

It was instructive, he said, to contrast press coverage of political events, such as the Iranian revolution, and environmental issues, such as the progressive destruction of the moist tropical forests. "It is the contents of the forests that are going to keep us alive, not the Khmerians," he added.

Developed countries, with their largely temperate environments, did not appreciate the importance of trees in a tropical ecological system, Professor Ayensu said. The soil in temperate regions is the main repository of nutrient wealth; in moist tropical forests vegetation is much more retentive, while the soil is relatively thin and poor.

It was a failure to understand the difference and the use of unsuitable logging techniques in tropical forests that had been responsible for much of the devastation of recent years.

A World Health Organization study in 1975 showed that in 150 years the world's tropical forest area, estimated at 16 million square kilometres, had dwindled by almost half. Probably the greatest loss, the professor said, was in genetic diversity—species of great potential importance to man were becoming extinct.

Corn, for example, was only 50 years old as a main crop and soy was an even more recent development. "Suppose the progenitors of corn," he said, "had been wiped out carelessly." Even in Africa, with about 40,000 species of indigenous flora, nearly all important food and cash crops were imported species.

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SPORT

Rugby Union

RFU launch study into violence

By Richard Stretton

The English rugby authorities are concerned that more players are being sent off each season... The Rugby Football Union is launching a study to analyse the implications of sending off players...

Rowing

New coach is a man of many sports

By Jim Raiton

The Amateur Rowing Association (ARA) announced yesterday the appointment of 32-year-old Cyril Carter as professional national coach...

Cricket

All Blacks wait on injury

The All Blacks' lock, Graeme Hoggins, has become the tourists' first injured player...

Golf

Busy Trevino will hope to keep his average down

From Mitchell Platt

Lee Trevino, in the final stages of his brilliant career, leads a field of eight players in the 54-hole Johnny Walker Trophy...

Snooker

It's a steal, by Fagan

By Sydney Friskin

Fagan with the task of eliminating all the remaining colours to win this title, but only after he had missed his own chance...

Art Galleries

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FOREIGN REPORT

Karamoja famine will return with a vengeance

Karamoja, covering 40,000 square miles of arid country in north-east Uganda, with a population of perhaps 300,000 (nobody knows the precise figure), has been a backward, forgotten area. It is still backward, but no longer forgotten. This year, the breakdown of law and order after the ousting of President Amin has changed the area.

The pictures of malnourished children, with swollen stomachs, and of the bodies of famine victims lying by the roadside, attracted worldwide attention, and international aid and missionary organisations are hard at work.

Karamoja is in crisis. All who have looked know that the famine will return, worse than ever, when the proceeds of a meagre harvest are finished, perhaps in December.

Fortunately, aid continues and provided that the supplies of food and medicines continue uninterrupted the scale of the next disaster should be limited. But many people live 30 or 40 miles from any road. It will be impossible to reach them all.

Travelling nearly a thousand miles in Karamoja, by road and helicopter, I was impressed by the relief operation that has been built there virtually no administrative framework existed before.

Most of Karamoja is a flat, grassy plain. The grass is stunted and lifeless in the driest areas, but grows well over the hills. In places where there has been rain, it is broken by stunted, spiky thorn bushes, and in some places by thorn trees. Areas where crops like millet grow are like an oasis in the desert.

There are more than 7,000 cattle on the plain, often with a few camels. There are a few roads, and some (apart from a few hundred yards in the town of Moroto) are paved. They are often in a state of disrepair. The roads are often in a state of disrepair. The roads are often in a state of disrepair.

The few vehicles on the roads are heavy lorries or four-wheel-drive Land Rovers. They are followed by a massive cloud of red dust.

Moroto has a (deceptively) normal air, with its police station and post office (through mail deliveries are slow and infrequent) and its hotel (which tries hard to provide a service, despite having no electricity, no running water and very little food). The garage looks normal, but it has no petrol. The shops are mostly shuttered and empty, and the market, though open, has almost nothing for sale.

It is more than 100 miles from Moroto to Soroti, the nearest town outside Karamoja. There is no telephone service, and no telegraph. This is the only place from which the aid operation is mounted.

The Roman Catholic mission and the Anglican diocese have headquarters here. In touch with the outside world, the mission (although only a mission, it is working with a sense of normality and most of the schools are closed because they have no teachers, and no running water).

The Save the Children Fund directs 10 emergency feeding centres, some of them with doctors attached. Recently, several French aid organisations moved into Karamoja.

near by is Abim Hospital, one of 23 rural hospitals built for the Ugandan Government with British aid just before the 1971 military coup. Abim hospital looks in good shape, but it has no electricity or water supply, and two volunteer Indian doctors are keeping it going in the absence of Ugandan doctors.

Close by is the Save the Children Fund's feeding station, where two British nurses, newly arrived after volunteering to serve in Karamoja, feed up to 200 malnourished children (there were 640 not long ago) and liaise with the Indian doctors for treatment of the more serious cases.

Miss Anne Caldwell, aged 23, from Huntingdon, and Miss Diana Lacey, aged 25, from Chichester, are experienced African nurses; they have a daily struggle with patients who have little sense of time or routine, and who cheerfully resist all efforts to bring some order into the chaos. They have no electricity, no running water (supplies must be carried from two miles away), and no refrigerator.

Heavily armed soldiers from the Uganda Army unit near by recently demanded biscuits and other food from them, but they courageously refused to hand it over. They have to supervise the twice-daily food distribution themselves or it is stolen. Their supplies of food are normally brought by lorry from Moroto but a broken curfew on the road had halted supplies. They were delighted when the two French military helicopters now operating in Karamoja came to the rescue, delivering several loads of food on the local football pitch to the local people.

The French helicopter team, headed by Lieutenant-Colonel Alain Pfister, is based at the East African Flying School at Soroti, and flies daily sorties with its two Puma jet helicopters into remote parts of Karamoja. Colonel Pfister and his men are happy to help wherever they can—they responded within 24 hours to a request to move food to Abim.

I flew with them to deliver food to members of the Kadam tribe, who live at altitudes up to 8,000ft in the Kadam mountains—a breathtaking flight past sheer rock faces that rise sharply from the plain, and a touchdown in a small clearing near several traditional mud-brick huts (homesteads).

Even here, high on the mountain, the cattle had gone—stolen, the Kadam people said, by raiders from the plains. They had grown some sorghum, but their stocks were finished, and they faced starvation without relief aid. They wanted to know when they could expect another delivery, and asked for dried milk and fish to provide a variation from the American-donated maize we delivered.

I had to warn them (through one of their number who could speak Swahili) that they must use the food sparingly, because no one knew when more could be sent to them. It was told, incidentally, that we were the first white men ever to set foot on this part of the mountain—which was probably true, although the mountain itself has frequently been climbed by mountaineers in past years.

And what about security? There is an almost complete breakdown in law enforcement, because of the inability of the meagre police forces to operate in the Karamoja hinterland. Tribal raiders are active, and in many parts of the region they appear to have stolen almost all the cattle.

Nobody knows precisely who the raiders are, but it is generally agreed that they are among the Karamojong, because only the Karamojong can live for long periods in this inhospitable, arid country. They are said also to be accompanied by former Amin soldiers, and they are well armed with guns left behind by Amin's fleeing army last year.

I saw few able-bodied young men in the villages I visited; the likelihood is that they are away with the raiders. The armed gangs steal cattle and food stocks; they have even raided Moroto several times, but only to steal cattle which they knew were in the town—they made no attempt to raid houses there.

The raids, however, result in numerous deaths and injuries. Two Italian doctors are running the 300-bed Matany hospital, a Roman Catholic missionary institution near Moroto. They had more than 300 cases of gunshot wounds in the first six months of 1980, and performed at least 40 amputations of legs or arms.

This hospital, the only one in Karamoja working fully, needs drugs and other supplies. They have a store overflowing with tetracycline, supplied by aid agencies to counter the serious cholera epidemic earlier this year, but lack other everyday needs. Their hope is that some of the money raised in voluntary contributions for Karamoja in the past few months will find its way to Matany.

Charles Harrison



Victims of famine in north-east Uganda, where many live beyond the reach of the aid organizations.

Nation's heritage in peril

The plunderers of Angkor Wat

The rape of Angkor Wat continues. Even as Kampuchea returns to a relative peace, the country's most treasured cultural possession suffers the attentions of robbers and vandals.

Within the last few weeks one of the monument's prized heads of Vishnu has been stolen, expertly cut from the body with surgical precision, with the trunk left lying smashed off at the base. The cutting, clean and at right angles, is obviously the work of a professional, perhaps one of the bandits who have been gradually extracting Angkor's jewels and selling them to the highest bidder.

Some of Angkor's finest figures have been offered for sale in refugee camps on the Thai border by "salesmen" with glossy photographs, guaranteeing to supply any specified piece or anyone offering the right price. One Indonesian businessman is reported to have offered 10,000 (about £4,100) for a particular statue.

The trade is continuing under the nose of the new curator of Angkor who looks after all the historical sites at Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom, with a pitifully small staff and protection from the Kampuchean Army only in the hours of daylight.

The thefts, though, take place at night when there is no military presence and no prospect of having one, according to Mr. Pich Kéo, the curator. The fact that the thefts take place after dark indicates the professional level of the thieves who must now the Angkor complex minutely to be able to find their way through the maze of paths leading to the north, pick out and retrieve a particular piece, and then retreat the way they came—presumably to the Thai border, though they could well be going elsewhere.

Another recent casualty has been the famous elephant frieze at Angkor Thom, a remarkable piece of work, which recently had several heads cut off, presumably for "collectors". Insecurity is nothing new to Angkor Wat, however. The area has been fought over time and again and the wonder is that there has not been more damage.

Both during the Lon Nol republic's war against Communist insurgents and the more recent fighting between the Vietnamese and the Khmer Rouge, there has been an unbroken record of damage to the site. Angkor Wat was not directly involved in the fighting. It was occupied on and off, but with the exception of a single shell fired by the Lon Nol forces it suffered no physical damage.

The shell damage is serious enough. It tore a piece out of Angkor's exquisite gallery frieze and splinters have splintered over adjacent areas, but that damage does not compare with what has been done by bandits, vandals and nature over the years since restoration work stopped in 1972. Since then the decline has been marked.

Even today, when the number of visitors is relatively few, there is a daily round of cleaning to remove graffiti and, during the rainy season, to try to keep down the spreading bright green moss which during its brief life can damage the surface of the stonework.

The human factor, however, has been far more destructive over the years. In Kampuchea in 1960 anything amiss tends to be blamed on the Khmer Rouge and their notorious "latter-day Hitler", Pol Pot. It is hard to discern during which particular period the monument suffered most, but guides today claim that half of the Buddhist statues that were in Angkor at the time Pol Pot took power in 1975 have now disappeared.

It is claimed that a similar percentage of the exhibits in the National Museum in Phnom Penh have vanished. In the present state of things it is impossible to verify such claims, but guides and curators at the site say that the Khmer Rouge were in the habit of taking artifacts from Angkor to make for sale, then in desperate short supply, at the Thai border.

Not surprisingly, the monuments today are scarcely in pristine condition. Their surroundings are overgrown and a tree has crashed down on part of the Bayon Temple at Angkor Thom, but the impression they make is still overwhelming. One could spend hours looking at the intricate carvings or gazing out at the surrounding forests from the cool of Angkor's towering heights, missing out on the events of the 12 centuries since it was built.

The only sound to disturb the peace is that made by Soviet An-12 military transports flying into the military airfield nearby.

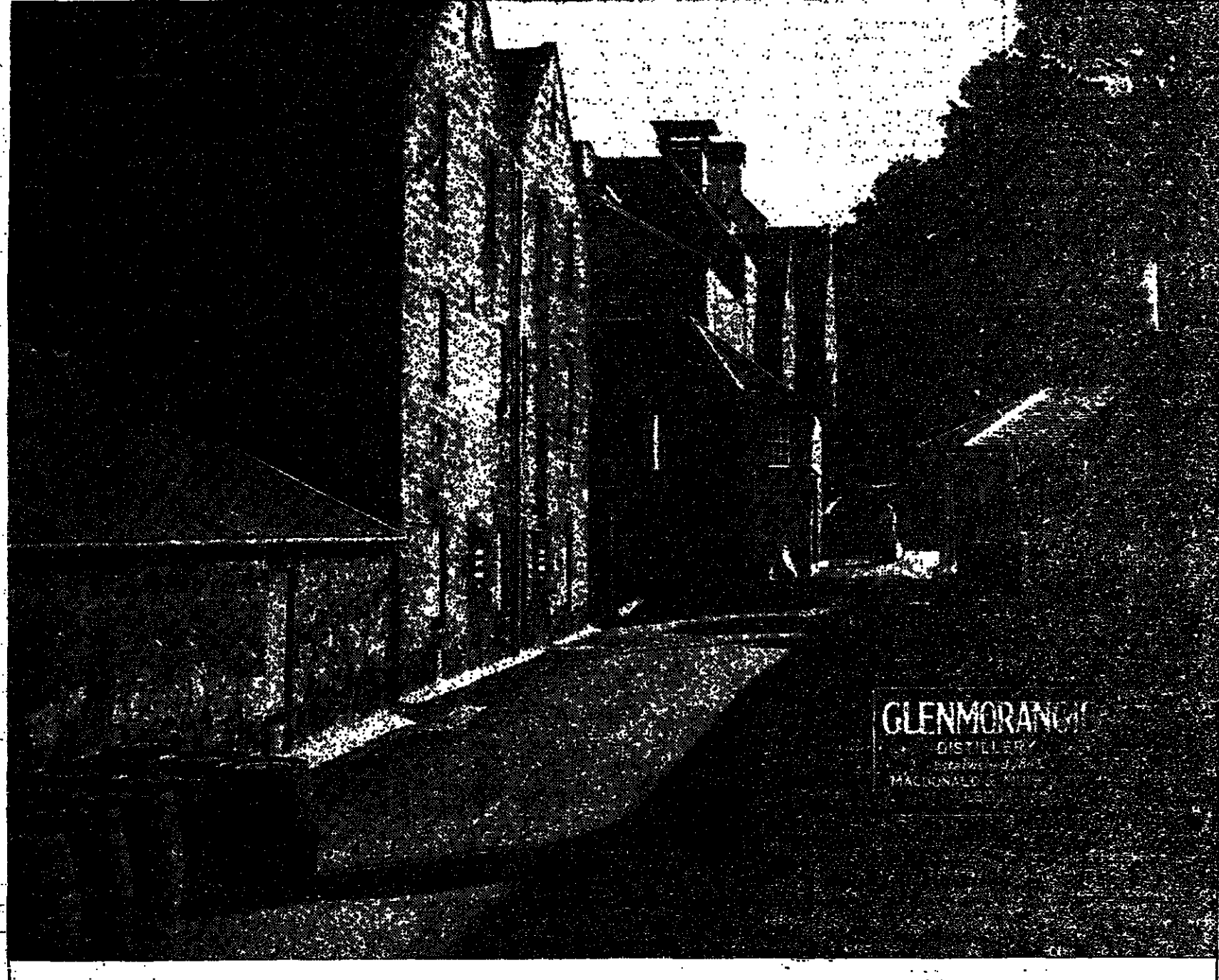
For anyone who knew Angkor before, in the days of the great restorers—the Grosliers, father and son—a visit now would be a sad experience. There is no prospect of anyone so dedicated or knowledgeable coming to Angkor's assistance now. The drawings and plans are in Paris. Money and staff are limited and the Government seems intent, when times get better, that any restoration should be in the hands of an Eastern block team. The Poles, have been mentioned.

At present there is an annual budget of 50,000 riels (about £5,200) and 60 staff who can do little more than keep down the weeds, but must not remove the number of workers is insufficient to care for Angkor Wat alone, not to speak of the other 49 historical sites that must be kept up.

In 1971 the budget for the restoration and upkeep of the monuments was 1.5m riels and there were several hundred staff. At the Wat nearby there were more than 50 monks; today there are five and no prospect of new recruits. The rebuilding of a Kampuchean agriculture is too urgent for that, according to the Government.

Mr. Pich Kéo is not discouraged. "It has died before and come alive again, and then died and come alive again. It has happened before in the history of Angkor."

David Watts



India's war against malaria

India is spending more than third of its health budget in fighting malaria. The mosquito's ability to develop resistance to insecticides makes it a real foe, but the present campaign is determined and is intended eventually to eradicate one of the country's curses. Sipsa is India's second all-out war against malaria. The first Changoth in the late 1950s and (Oct 1960). Malaria was having the piling effect on the health of its people and of the country's economy. In 1960, malaria had 75 million deaths a year and 800,000 deaths in India. A programme was founded in 1964 and was remarkably successful. In 1964 the disease had been brought under control. There were no cases, but not a single case was recorded. The next year, a single case of malaria parasite to show the Government and dropped their guard. They had been beaten, but they had been beaten. They had been beaten, but they had been beaten. They had been beaten, but they had been beaten.

The oil crisis led to a huge increase in insecticide prices. DDT, which had been costing India £167 a ton, went up to £550 and Malathion which had been costing £330 a ton, went up to £730.

Meanwhile, mosquitoes in some regions were developing resistance to DDT. The extent of this resistance is still a matter of research and of debate.

Dr David Clyde, of the World Health Organisation in Delhi, says that there are DDT-resistant mosquitoes in a wide belt of northern and central India, and the resistant strain is spreading. Other insecticides, such as Malathion and BHC, can be used, but Dr Clyde says mosquitoes are also becoming resistant to these. Some mosquitoes are resistant to two or three insecticides.

Dr Sadananda Pattnayak, who heads the National Malaria Eradication Programme, is not convinced that insecticide resistance is as serious as some say. He thinks there have been behavioural changes among carriers, that they have learnt to avoid DDT-sprayed areas just as rats can learn to avoid traps.

As well as insecticide resistance there was another, and ominous development. This was the spread of the falciparum malaria parasite, the cause of cerebral malaria. It is much more dangerous than the common vivax parasite and is resistant to Chloroquine, the remarkable and efficient drug universally used for treating malaria. The falciparum parasite responds to quinine and sulfa drug treatment. It is found in all the 180 malaria deaths in India last year.

This parasite is prevalent in the north-eastern states, having moved up from Burma and Thailand, but has also been found in 60 districts in a belt across the north and centre of India.

The high number of malaria cases in 1976 persuaded the Government that another intensive programme should be launched. Funding for it was increased from £10m a year to £42m.

The war against malaria is conducted on broad fronts. An effort is being made to involve everyone who might be at risk. A force of 65,000 health workers has been recruited to visit every household once every two weeks. They are picking up by 300,000 volunteers in the villages, and by 120,000 people who have been given basic health care training.

The task of all of them is to spread awareness of malaria, to spread precautions, such as spraying and to identify and treat fevers.

Trevor Fishlock

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THE OLD MEN OF MOSCOW

The Soviet hierarchy is very resistant to change. The top men form a club of elderly comrades with a strong interest in supporting each other. They all know that change once started is difficult to stop and is liable to make victims of those who propose it. Below them younger men may yearn for power but if they push they are liable to be cut down and to have their careers destroyed for ever. No one distinguishes too clearly between ambition and conspiracy.

High officials in the administrative apparatus also have a vested interest in continuity. Change at the top may mean change far down the line, with privileges falling away like autumn leaves as new loyalties come into play. Better, therefore, to sustain even an ageing gerontocracy than to face the long and unpredictable struggle for power which inevitably follows change at the top.

This must help to explain why Mr Kosygin has kept his job for so long after his health had failed, and why even now, for the moment, he remains in the Politburo. It is a long time since he visibly wielded any effective power as prime minister. In the 1960s he did so in foreign affairs, and in the same period he had his struggles with Mr Brezhnev over the economy. He pleaded for light industry and agricultural

reforms but was rebuffed by Mr Brezhnev who accused him of neglecting agriculture, the leading role of the party in public administration, and underestimating the possibilities of catching up with the United States by mobilizing party initiatives. The reforms faded away and Mr Kosygin was gradually less in evidence. Power accumulated in the hands of Mr Brezhnev, particularly over foreign and economic affairs.

Recently, as the performance of the economy has come under increasing frank criticism from Mr Brezhnev, Mr Kosygin has been spared, even though ministries under his control have been singled out for blame. One would like to see this as a token of recognition that some of Mr Kosygin's ideas in the 1960s were right, and that if they had been implemented things might now be better. Perhaps there is a hint of this in the revived though not very convincing talk of reform. But the reason for Mr Kosygin's survival is more likely to be found in his colleagues' interest in self-protection. They want to keep the club together, and it is possible above criticism. Respect for age, experience and position must be preserved for the sake of all. Blame for shortcomings must whenever possible be found further down the line, not in

BOLD, SPECTACULAR AND PROBABLY SILLY

Mr Heseltine's frantic on capital funds for council housing is a characteristic, bold, spectacular and more concerned with immediate political effect than with eventual consequences. Unlike the block grant proposals in his Local Government Bill, however, the freeze need not have any major consequences once its immediate purpose of striking a fresh spasm of dread throughout local government has been accomplished. It would be unwise of Mr Heseltine to let it last long enough to have any direct effects, as these would most probably be harmful.

The succession of growls and pounces from the Department of the Environment in recent months has had, among other purposes, that of directing attention from the fact that local government has quite regularly managed to respond to appeals for spending cuts more reliably than those sectors of public expenditure for which the central Government is directly responsible. There is strong preliminary evidence that this will be the case again this time. The last ministerial tirade from Marshall Street in September was much impaired in dramatic impact, because Mr Heseltine was compelled to admit that if local revenue

expenditure for the rest of the year followed the pattern of other years, then councils would in fact achieve the savings he had demanded.

On the same occasion, scarcely a month ago, he also made the very sensible and judicious observation that it would be wrong to take action against councils' capital as opposed to revenue spending, because of the harm that this would be bound to do to the construction industry. He had threatened something of the kind in June. It is surprising on the face of it that the state of affairs as it has unfolded in the past month should be so unexpected as to warrant such a drastic change of opinion. In the nature of things, capital spending is less likely to get out of hand than current spending. Cutting it is also less unpopular, as the heart goes to those who have to live with the consequences. Most councils have therefore been only too ready to concentrate their spending cuts on current expenditure.

In the present state of the economy it is hard to accuse any minister of being over-zealous in the defence of public sector funds. At least the freeze will not do much immediate harm. An interruption in the flow of projects still at the paper stage

A CONCESSION TO THE IRA

It was in the face of a hunger strike that the Government of the day introduced a "special category" status in 1972 for prisoners in Northern Ireland who were associated with paramilitary organizations of both colours. They were not obliged to wear prison clothing, they did not have to work, and they lived in compounds, not cells. That mistaken concession, "political status" in fact though not in name, was withdrawn in the case of all prisoners convicted of offences committed after March 1, 1976. Many of those who would have qualified for the concession had it not been withdrawn have insisted upon it by refusing to wear prison clothes, and there was the work prescribed. For that they have incurred the loss of all but the statutory privileges. Later they took to fouling their cells as a form of protest, creating revolting conditions for themselves and for the prison staff who cope with them.

It is in the face of another hunger strike, due to start on Monday, that the Government has now yielded to the first demand of the men: "on the

blanket" that they may wear their own clothes (subject to approval). The protesters are being given the substance of what they want in that respect, but not the form. They are not to be treated in a special way, as they have demanded, since this change about clothing is a change in the general prison rules, in force throughout Northern Ireland and applies to all prisoners alike. Nevertheless it is clearly their protest and the pressure mounted outside on their behalf that have brought about the change.

A sensible concession, or placatory weakness?

The move is part of what has been recommended by Cardinal O'Flaherty and other church dignitaries who have been in touch with both sides calling for flexibility. Since something like a negotiation has been going on, the Government has presumably established that this should be enough to stop the hunger strike. That is a plain advantage. But the "dirty protest" in a block of the Maze prison has been a useful focus for Irish hatred of British rule in Ireland. It is also a swelling theme of IRA propaganda, especially in the United States and especially

An evening paper's role

From the Editor of the *Hammer* and *Highgate Express*.

Sir, While no journalist likes to see the death of a newspaper, Mr Charles Wintour in your columns (October 17) highlighted some of the reasons why, inevitably, we are in future to have only one London evening newspaper, namely the *Evening Standard*.

He makes for me two particularly striking points. One is whether the evening papers have done their duty and if they are a sufficiently vital part of Londoners' life. The other is the fact that the *Standard* and the *Evening News* appear to have geared themselves to reaching commuters going out of central London weekdays rather than indigenous population.

First point: the evening papers have done their duty as the dramatic declamation of the two evening papers. Yet, at the same time, they have geared themselves to reaching commuters going out of central London weekdays rather than indigenous population.

Second point: the evening papers have done their duty as the dramatic declamation of the two evening papers. Yet, at the same time, they have geared themselves to reaching commuters going out of central London weekdays rather than indigenous population.

Pure and undefiled

From Dr G. Verme.

Sir, May I add two comments to Philip Howard's apt and learned discussion (October 21) of the Pope's misuse of the word "adultery"?

Firstly, the English meaning of the term, based ultimately on a Christian definition, differs from the Hebrew notion in an important respect. In Old Testament law, the sole criterion of adultery is the status of the woman (married or betrothed) and not the nature of the act (sexual intercourse with an unmarried, betrothed or divorced woman is not an adultery).

Secondly, the prophetic identification of idolatry with adultery derives from the symbolism depicting the Covenant as a marriage between God and Israel (see for example Hosea 2 or Ezekiel 16). Within such a context, the reference in Jeremiah 3:9 to Israel's adulterous whorings after "stocks and stones" makes sense.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE VERME,
The Oriental Institute,
Pusey Lane,
Oxford OX1 2JF.
October 21.

Television view of brain death

From the Chairman of the BBC.

Sir, The degree of disquiet and dissonance within the medical profession about the criteria for assessing brain damage revealed in your correspondence columns appears to provide very adequate justification for the *Panorama* programme on the subject. The BBC does not mount such programmes except in a very serious vein: "entertainment" and "sensationalism" are not part of this serious interest.

I can reply to Mr. Tam Dalyell's question (October 23) very briefly. Yes, before the programme was transmitted it was seen by a senior member of staff outside the *Panorama* team, and it was anxiously discussed among the most senior editors of management. Yes, we did take independent medical advice on the programme and made some changes in the light of it.

The subject is indeed a disturbing one. This is why it should not be kept under wraps.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE HOWARD,
BBC,
Broadcasting House, W1
October 23.

From Professor John Holt

Sir, British television and British medicine have long enjoyed an enviable reputation for excellence, both in the home and abroad. How, therefore, to see public confidence in both threatened by programmes such as *Panorama* dealing with the predicament of difficult and controversial problems of human organ transplantation and brain death.

At best, medical science and showbiz make a strong brew, but this mixture reaches toxic levels. Needless to say, certain inaccuracies, defects and bias apparent in the programme have already been criticized in the press and two leading medical journals. Perhaps in the eyes of some such discussion is a measure of the programme's success. Unfortunately, only a small fraction of viewers read or assimilate such criticism, and therefore left with the unchallenged viewpoint of the particular programme.

Few can dispute that there are numerous unanswered questions pertaining to brain death and transplantation of human organs. Whether a television programme is the best place to raise them is itself questionable, but if it is done, let it be done properly. A serious discussion of the matter aimed at stimulating further research and admitting the undeniable difficulties, would be welcomed by many.

Instead the impression has been left amongst many of those who work in hospitals and have to face such problems, that the producers were bent on raising unnecessary alarm and dependency, and undermining public confidence in the British medical profession. If there is a case to prove the value of certain specialized tests carried out abroad, but not routinely performed in this country, it was certainly made from the four American case histories depicted, although unfortunately, this would not be apparent to a layman.

It is quite possible that because of the changed attitudes engendered by this programme, some patients who are awaiting transplants will be disappointed. It also may well come about that those doctors working in intensive therapy units in this country will now find themselves competing with the policies or opinions of the "ale doctors" who are exploiting patient management to the relatives. The day may even dawn when there is a consultation service, at the RBC consisting of their chosen physicians to advise in these matters. Such a thing, I believe, would be quite disastrous and I leave the suggestion to those who enjoy indulging in fantasy.

To return to reality, I believe the onus is now on the BBC to screen an undramatized, unedited discussion amongst experts in an effort to redress the balance of views regarding the serious issues raised by *Panorama*. Perhaps this will help to restore public confidence in the medical profession and to reduce the anxiety and confusion amongst patients and relatives. It is not sufficient for those responsible for television "entertainment" who choose to air controversial issues like *Panorama* to leave the public with the repercussions in the correspondence columns of *The Times*. Surely we now all wish to be better informed.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOLT,
Anaesthetics Unit,
London Hospital Medical College,
Whitechapel, E1.
October 21.

The Labour Party and its leader.

From Lord Hail of Lush.

Sir, It seems that some members of the Labour Party, enthusiastically encouraged by the media, are engaged in the canonization of their most laudable. Surely this attitude is entirely foreign to the principles of socialism. Does not the socialist philosophy stem from cooperation, equality, communal decision-making? Are not deference, elitism, hierarchy its antithesis?

The Parliamentary Labour Party needs a leader to perform its political and constitutional responsibilities. But should he or she be more than equal in power to the colleagues in the Shadow Cabinet or in the Cabinet itself?

The party in the country also needs a leader, a focus for its work in political education, organization, expression of opinion. Those who have shared in the door-knocking, pamphlet distribution, envelope-filling have long been aware of the extent to which ordinary members feel excluded from policy-forming. The constituency parties, trade unions and parliamentary party have a right to share in the election of a national leader—periodically submitted for election.

These are two tasks, probably better performed by separate individuals. The impending crisis in the party has already been a fact were recognized and put into practice.

But whoever is elected and by whatever means, the essence of the socialist attitude to life will remain unaltered. It will be a fact of life that American-oriented habit of false hero-worship, syncretic deference and standing ovations. They demean the comradeship of the party, insult the recipient and retard the communal equality in which socialism is rooted.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HAIL,
House of Lords,
October 22.

From Professor Alan Thompson

Sir, It is clear that while there is a demand in the Labour movement for wider consultation in the choice of leader, the Parliamentary Labour Party will (quite properly) never

accept a leader unacceptable to itself imposed from outside Parliament. This view is, as far as I can judge, shared by all four candidates for the leadership.

Why not therefore accept a two-tier system, with a national party leader based on a much wider franchise, and retaining the present method of electing the parliamentary leader? This would have some similarities with the procedures of the West German SPD. Dr Willi Brandt, as national party leader, works in close harmony with the Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt. The two roles are different yet mutually supportive. The national chairman has an integrative role, promoting morale and unity within the party. The Chancellor has a responsible executive role which assesses party opinion in the context of the wider needs of the country, and of West Germany's place in the world. He and his Cabinet, for instance, must necessarily assume day-to-day responsibilities in the crucial areas of foreign policy and defence.

This system has proved effective in West Germany and has harnessed the capabilities of two outstanding European statesmen.

The possibility of a two-tier system for the British Labour Party arose in discussion I had with the late Hugh Gaitskill in 1960 when he visited my constituency in the aftermath of the party conference. Mr Gaitskill was, of course, a dedicated upholder of the constitutional authority of the parliamentary party, and his support for this concept was by no means confined to his fellow MPs. I remember sharing a platform with him at a mass meeting of ordinary Labour members when he received a standing ovation for a magnificent and moving speech on this theme. However, Mr Gaitskill also favoured the idea of making the election of party chairman much more broadly based. The two-tier approach seemed to me at the time to be a constructive and workable solution. In 1980 the arguments for it are even more compelling.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN THOMPSON,
11 Upper Gray Street,
Edinburgh 9.

Easing the way to death

From the President of the Royal College of Physicians.

Sir, I agree with all the points made in your excellent leader, "The road to dusty death" (October 18). Ten years ago, while clinically depressed, I am sure that business first hit the headlines in February, 1970, but it should surely be on record that major business sponsorship of opera probably began with the John Lewis Partnership's provision in 1950 of £12,500 to Glyndebourne to help it to mount its Mozart festival in Sussex for the first time since 1929.

I was personally involved in the negotiations between the late John Christie and the late John Spedden Lewis. Glyndebourne had been invited to reopen its doors for the 1951 Festival of Music, a festival of four Mozart productions. The Treasury had offered a guarantee of £25,000 for the purpose, the first and last state money that the Glyndebourne Festival itself has received to date.

The Treasury was asked to make an advance of half its guarantee to enable Glyndebourne to give two new productions in 1951. Unfortunately the Treasury was unable to make this money available in advance, and it was John Spedden Lewis on behalf of the John Lewis Partnership who came to the rescue in a major way, they having been great supporters from the beginning in taking numbers of tickets for their parties in the pre-war days of Glyndebourne.

Yours faithfully,
MORAN CAPLAT,
General Administrator,
Glyndebourne Festival Opera,
Glyndebourne,
Lewes, East Sussex.

The sponsored arts

From Mr Moran Caplat.

Sir, Mr Sachs (Special Report, October 20) may well be correct in saying that arts sponsorship by British business first hit the headlines in February, 1970, but it should surely be on record that major business sponsorship of opera probably began with the John Lewis Partnership's provision in 1950 of £12,500 to Glyndebourne to help it to mount its Mozart festival in Sussex for the first time since 1929.

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Yours faithfully,
MORAN CAPLAT,
General Administrator,
Glyndebourne Festival Opera,
Glyndebourne,
Lewes, East Sussex.

Reform in Namibia

From Mr Billy Marais.

Sir, Being a resident of Namibia passing through London, I was most interested to read your serious and informed article by Nicholas Ashford in your issue of Friday, October 17. I would like to add the following facts:

In your article you rightly say that the DTA (Democratic Turnhalle Alliance), who are the majority party in the National Assembly, have "been endowed with the power to carry out real change and reform". What is not brought out is the extent to which they have used these powers speedily and sweepingly. They have, in fact, made Namibia a "non-racial" country.

Namibia has, under DTA rule, officially abolished racial discrimination and promises anyone who seeks to maintain apartheid, for example, the authorities will withdraw the licence of any hotel or restaurant owner who refuses to serve

Mental confusion

From Professor M. R. Olsen.

Sir, The plea made by the Secretary of State to health authorities to close large mental hospitals as soon as possible is, in my view, as the editor of the *MIND* and reported in your paper today (October 21), is dangerously superficial.

There is no doubt of the magnitude of the problems presented by the large numbers of psychiatric patients inappropriately occupying hospital beds, some for the greater part of their adult lives. However, it is a sad fact that nearly a quarter of a century after the Report of the Royal Commission on the Law Relating to Mental Illness and Mental Deficiency there is no comprehensive system of community care for the majority of the mentally disturbed.

Instead it is a principle which remains in our imagination to inspire future ideals, to support our fantasy that what the Secretary of State is proposing is in the best interests of all, to deepen our anxieties about the hurt that this policy may cause patients and their families, and to help us bear the fact that in spite of the political acceptance of the necessity for the

A future for 'The Times'

From Mr P. H. Stallard.

Sir, It seems to me that the most suitable purchaser for your newspaper would be your readers and your employees jointly and equally.

Yours faithfully,
P. H. STALLARD,
17 Granby Road,
Stevenage,
Hertfordshire,
October 22.

From the Director General of the English-Speaking Union

Sir, How right Mr William Rees-Mogg, your editor, is when he declares (October 23): "Many of our institutions are under threat; *The Times* fights for them, and now *The Times* fights for herself". These are powerful words and we applaud them.

It has for some time been apparent to a number of us that *The Times* would do better by itself than in combination with *The Sunday Times*, and that the merger, which was a bad idea in the first place, has landed in near disaster for both newspapers.

May we wish Mr William Rees-Mogg every success in his visit to Toronto to meet the current owners, and hope that his idea for the newspaper to be sold to a consortium is endorsed? On behalf of an organisation which exists to defend and expand the basic freedoms which English-speaking peoples value and cherish, we give full moral support to your editor's courageous initiative which deserves to succeed.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN LEE WILLIAMS,
Darnmouth House,
37 Charles Street,
Berkeley Square, W1.
October 23.

From Mr Robert Chapman

Sir, I read your issue of October 23 with increasing amazement. Every item dealing with the decision on *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* reads like a sales prospectus.

How sensible your leaders have been in the past when the former managers of, say, British Leyland or British Steel have paid the price of failure. Why is *The Times* different? Surely the responsibility for the present situation lies primarily with the Editor and the management.

I look forward to continuing my 40 years as a reader of the paper (or 39 years 1 month if I allow for last year's unfortunate stoppage) and I would like once again to say *The Times* because it is the best paper rather than as now, because the others are worse.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. CHAPMAN,
145 Kensington Church Street, W8.
October 23.

Israel and the Middle East

From the Director of the League of Arab States Office.

Sir, Mr Arrigo Levi's thesis that the so-called Near East is "a zone of potential stability" ("World View", October 9) provided it can be insulated from the rest of the Arab world betrays a lack of understanding of and sympathy with the sentiments which unite the Arab states stretching from Morocco in the Atlantic to Oman in the Indian Ocean. Similar antipathy towards the spirit and aspirations of Arab nationalism led to the Franco-British scheme to create the "Levant" in the eastern Mediterranean after the fall of the Ottoman Empire and the infamous Balfour Declaration.

The tragic situation in this area today, as the current armed conflict in the oil-rich Gulf region, can be traced back to the iniquitous political settlements imposed by the Western powers who wrenched control of the Middle East from the Ottomans.

According to Mr Levi, it should be possible to extend the Camp David formula to occupied Palestine and the rest of the eastern Mediterranean, and insulate this region from the rest of the Arab world, after the United States presidential election and the new elections in Israel next year. Even if one were to ignore the unity and common interests of the Arab states, all of whom are united in opposing expansionist Zionism, one wonders how the creation of a latter day "Levant" can help the Western interests in the Middle East and the Arab world?

Surely, it is in the interests of the West that Arab unity be preserved. A united Arab world can promote a just and lasting settlement in Palestine and ensure that the Arab economic and political links with the West are strengthened to mutual advantage.

Yours faithfully,
OMAR AL-HASSAN,
League of Arab States Office,
52 Green Street, W1.
October 10.

Bankside Leviathan

From Mr H. G. Burton.

Sir, Mr P. C. Elsegood (October 23) suggests that environmentalists would be outraged at the thought of a power station on the banks of the Thames at Battersea. Half a century or so ago, when such a power station was actually erected, there were no environmentalists around because the environment had not then been invented.

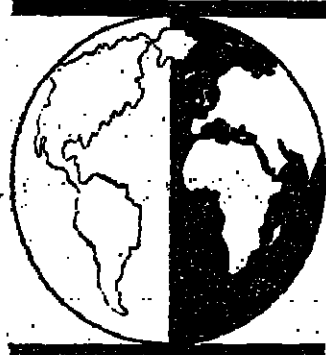
The architect of the power station went on to design the new University Library at Cambridge. Critics of this building said that the architect had merely used again the drawings that he had used at Battersea. Their suspicions appeared to be confirmed when King George V, at the official opening of the library, in October, 1934, described it as "both a power-house and testing station of educational activities".

Yours faithfully,
HENRY G. BURTON,
7 Amhurst Court,
Grange Road,
Cambridge,
October 22.

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Oct 13. Dealings End, Today. \$ Contango Day, Oct 27. Settlement Day, Nov 3

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous day

[illegible]



US Steel prices up in November

United States Steel Corporation, only three weeks after winning higher base prices for imported steel, announced its own price increases effective November 1, 1980 and January 1, 1981.

The United States' largest steel maker said in Pittsburgh it will raise prices for bar, rod and wire and semi-finished products from November 1. The prices of sheet, strip and tin-mill products will rise on January 1.

No specific prices were disclosed, only that the November 1 increases probably would boost steel revenue about 1 per cent while the January 1 increases would raise revenue about 3 per cent.

The increases come in some of the industry's tightest markets. Sales of sheet and strip products have picked up in recent weeks, but demand still is not strong enough to eliminate discounting, although buyers acknowledge that the margin of discounting is narrowing.

Third World shipping

The international conference on the development of maritime transportation in the Third World ended a two-day debate in Cairo by calling for international cooperation in financing and establishing joint maritime companies. It also recommended guaranteeing fair shares to companies transporting goods to and from developing countries.

Brazilian oil deal

Senator Antonio Delfim Netto, Brazilian planning minister, has signed a financial agreement with the French Government involving a credit line of \$500m (\$200m). The funds will be used for the purchase by Petrobras, the Brazilian state oil and gas corporation, for offshore drilling platforms and other oil equipment from France.

Sakhalin oil find

Sakhalin Oil Development Corporation of Japan said in Tokyo it has discovered an oil deposit capable of producing 330 kilolitres of crude oil a day in an area about 40 kilometres off the northeastern tip of the Soviet island of Sakhalin.

Cars for Norway

Japanese private cars took 42.4 per cent of the Norwegian market in September, down from 45.4 per cent in August. But still well above the 37.1 per cent average for the first six months, according to figures released in Oslo.

£1m Fiat strike fund

The strike fund collected throughout Italy for workers involved in the recent Fiat dispute has passed 2,000m lire (£1m) and money is still coming in, Signor Pio Galli, a metalworkers union leader said in Rome.

Radical changes likely under proposals to shift costs to employers

Training boards in the melting pot

Radical changes in the scope and composition of the 24 industrial training boards seem inevitable if proposals to shift the total cost to industry expected to be outlined in the Queen's Speech next month are implemented. Reaction from employers to the recommendations of a tripartite Manpower Services Commission review body indicate that they will not pay more to keep all the boards operating.

Comments by the Confederation of British Industry are among those submitted by more than 300 organizations to the MSC and due to be forwarded to Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, next week. The TUC, which was also represented on the review body, supports the change in funding but wants new legislation to strengthen the powers of the industrial training boards to increase levies to cover administration costs.

Most independent industrial relations organizations, however, appear to accept the disappearance of many of the training boards as inevitable. A submission by the Institute of Personnel Management, which represents more than 20,000 individuals, is believed to favour the MSC replacing the statutory training board framework with voluntary organizations even if this means the unions no longer being involved.

The Institute suggests that the cost of voluntary training arrangements, which already cover more than 33 per cent of United Kingdom workers, could be met by fees. Such bodies could then concentrate on specific training problems rather than,

as at present, on policing the training arrangements of employers claiming exemption from levies. Such a change, the Institute argues, would also eliminate by natural selection overlaps and duplications between the existing training boards and inject flexibility into the system.

To prevent under-enthusiastic employers poaching a trained staff from others, the Institute is also understood to be suggesting that voluntary arrangements should be backed by a small separate inspectorate responsible to the Manpower Services Commission and able to impose fines or levies on defaulters.

An even more extreme recommendation understood to be incorporated in the Institute's submission is that all employing organizations should have a statutory duty to supply the MSC with predictions about future manpower requirements. It argues that accurate data collection on an industry level is essential to compile training plans which relate to requirements.

Employers are believed likely to resist such a suggestion on the grounds that companies themselves are too uncertain of future manpower levels to be able, even if willing, to supply that necessary information. They are also understood to be suggesting that such skills can be transferred across the industry where necessary.

The Machine Tools Trades Association suggests that the training board system could be reduced to a regional or

sub-regional activity, reporting through a single administrative headquarters. This would link the activities of jobcentres, MSC special services and others involved in manpower resources with the industrial training boards.

In his comments on the review body's proposals, Mr Mark Roper, chairman of the British Printing Industries Federation's education and training committee, echoed the views of most other individual employers' organizations when he said that the transfer of funding should be opposed "not only because it was proposed at a time when industry could least afford it but also because of its inflationary effect".

Mr Roper calculates that the training levy on printing industries would have to be increased from 0.9 per cent of payroll to 1.15 per cent if the operating cost of the printing and publishing training board were transferred to the industry.

Other employer organizations are prepared to accept the transfer of funding, provided it is phased in and gradually extended over a longer period than that envisaged by the review body. This suggested that the proposed new arrangements should be in operation by the beginning of the 1983 financial year.

Employers argue that this is the best way for a realistic assessment to be made of the contribution of individual boards.

Patricia Tisdall

Germans hope for compromise in row over EEC steel quotas

From Peter Norman

Brussels, Oct. 23

A special meeting of the EEC Council of Ministers will be held in Luxembourg on Saturday to discuss the European Commission's plans to impose compulsory production limits on Germany.

Shortly before the announcement in Brussels today, Viscount Etienne Davignon, the Industry Commissioner, gave a warning that continuing uncertainty over the fate of the Commission's plans was leading to a falloff in new orders.

Looking somewhat chastened after yesterday's decision by the West German Government to call for another meeting on steel, Viscount Davignon insisted that the steel industry was in crisis and needed the protection that mandatory production quotas could provide. With the latest figures showing a deterioration in terms of production, orders, prices and employment, Viscount Davignon said the Commission was

distressed at every extra delay affecting its plans.

Meanwhile officials in the West German economics ministry said Bonn hoped that a compromise could be reached on Saturday between Germany and its eight EEC partners which are backing the plan for mandatory curbs.

But the officials were careful not to exclude the possibility that Germany might employ a veto to block the plans.

Dr Otto Lambsdorff, the Bonn economics minister, said Germany felt it was being offered a poor deal. "We have the impression that our partners expect the Federal Republic to make sacrifices that are greater than theirs," he said.

He thought Germany could be reasonably asked to accept plans involving around 8,000 redundancies in its steel industry, but the Commission's proposals would involve between 2,500 and 3,000 more. It was time that some EEC member states stopped subsidizing uneconomic plants and supported conditions making for unfair competition.

It is thought that West Germany might finally allow the other eight member states to bring in the production control scheme, provided it is in force for a limited period and is flexible enough to take account of the higher degree of restructuring achieved in the German steel industry.

The Germans seem keen to have special deals for which they will be willing to take on a limited period of the Commission's scheme. They are, however, disappointed at the few figures provided by the Commission concerning the planned quota levels.

Viscount Davignon said the Commission would not be providing specific figures until the production quota scheme was agreed. He indicated that the Bonn government should be given a fairly clear idea on Saturday as to the impact the proposals will have on Germany's steel industry.

The German Iron and Steel Association said it was confident a compromise could be found.

BL selling site as factory units

By Clifford Webb

Midland Industrial Correspondent

BL Cars, which has more than 130,000 cars in stock, is selling a factory and few prospective buyers, is going into the industrial estate business. The former car plant at Speke, Liverpool, is being split into factory units and will be sold as such by the Triumph Trading Park.

The 1.2m sq ft factory standing on a 100-acre site has been for sale for 18 months for nearly 18 months without attracting an acceptable offer.

Mr Roger Tuckwell of Mason, Owen and Partners, the Liverpool estate agents, said yesterday that only two serious inquiries for Speke and they came to nothing. We have now been instructed to sell or lease factory units varying in size from 25,000 square feet upwards. This means that the site will have to be administered as a trading estate.

Another former Triumph car factory, the Tilt-Hill plant and body plant at Coventry, is being advertised for sale at £2.75m. The 1.2m sq ft factory could be used as a trading estate, but it will not be putting up any cash.

Instead it has offered BL a straight exchange for 13 acres of council-owned land adjoining the factory, which could be used to extend production facilities when conditions improve.

A former Rover factory in Bordesley Green Road, Birmingham, used for the storage of cars, has recently been sold for £400,000.

The MG sports car factory at Abingdon closes today but BL already has it up for sale.

Leyland Vehicles, the group's truck and bus company, has been more successful in finding buyers. The former Park Royal plant has already been sold for a reported £13m.

The non-nuclear alternatives

From Mr David Green

Sir, If Professor Bells (October 15) made any mistake that might justify Fabian Acker's criticism it was in assuming general awareness of the quantities of other than nuclear energy sources.

The 50 per cent increase in world population from around 4,000 million in 1980 to an excess of 6,000 million in the year 2000, which is inevitable in the absence of a catastrophe so vast as to make all other anxieties of less concern, simply that world population will require half as many resources again as are now in use unless means can be devised to sustain the same living standards with less resources.

A massive proportion of any economies that can be achieved in existing resources will necessarily be available up by burgeoning population.

That equation would be bad enough, even if one could assume continued availability of resources at their present level; but of course one cannot. Oil, though the most plentiful, is by no means the only resource whose availability has already begun to decline. So far as energy is concerned we shall certainly need every means of harnessing the energy available, but it is not the energy required in the installation to produce it. But it is entirely illusory to

believe that the gap can be filled without recourse to nuclear power, particularly when the economies and infrastructures of Third World countries must have off-peak energy which can only be released if those advanced nations which have economies and infrastructures capable of employing nuclear and other high technology energy sources pursue them.

Fabian Acker repeats some of the arguments favoured by those who wish to disavow nuclear energy. Certainly he severely lacks the theoretical understanding of the visible tidal energies of the Severn estuary are in part the product of a resonance set up by the shape of the estuary, change the shape as a barrage must change the resonance, and of tidal power stations, which are also made more available by the tide.

Changes such as this can turn a headlong rush into a financial and energy disaster overnight. He argues for more coal-fired power stations, albeit that they emit more radioactive material than nuclear power stations. But what is the coal to come from? At present with great difficulty we produce approximately 135 million tons of coal a year, and of this we use 100 million tons a year which, if it were to be produced from coal, would require at least another 200 million tons of coal. Neither

in our coal measures nor in coal industry is there any hint that could sustain an inch in production remotely resembling that figure.

Of course, we have rich sources of energy, but in source usage and could produce two million unemployed in the process of extraction of energy. I doubt even Fabian Acker would grant that sort of consequence is preferable to a nuclear energy.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
Rhyd yr Hwyl,
Caele Morris,
Near Haverfordwest SA52 0XZ.

From Mr Tom Landon-Davies
Sir, Professor Bells (October 15) makes no mention of the future of our energy supply. I am sorry that he does not come across some of the many people and organizations with widely varying views on nuclear power who do not agree in the sterile confusion of the sterile confusion. The views of such as myself (and almost always informed people) do not fit the headlines or even the vision studies nearly enough.

No doubt eventually we shall have to use nuclear power. Yours faithfully,
TOM LANDON-DAVIES,
The Natural Energy Association,
50 Gifford Road,
London N1,
October 21.

'Buy British' campaign

From Mrs Mary Loader

Sir, In a Radio 4 discussion on October 20 between a Yorkshire businessman and Sir Keith Joseph it was suggested that if we bought British goods we would be helping the country which we must help.

As a patriotic housewife, may I say change would be a fine thing.

In the linen department of most large stores, one can choose from Spanish, Portuguese, American, Indian and Pakistani goods. I have been to search for British products. Price is not relevant—they are "expensive" and "more expensive" from most sources—possibly the products are cheaper, but they are always more expensive. The British Linens, Lancashire Cottons, Yorkshire Woollens, etc. of which we used to be so justly proud.

The same situation pertains in shoe shops. I have seen shoes from Poland, Brazil, France, Italy, etc. as well as from England. In value for money, there is little to choose between the products.

In day to day shopping, butter springs to mind as a commodity in the marketing of which neither rhyme nor reason applies. The price of butter varies from 45p per 500gm in the same shop, with Germany, France, Denmark, New Zealand and the Irish Republic vying for our custom.

Satellite TV

From the Chairman of Radio Tele Luxembourg (UK)

Sir, The two articles on Radio Luxembourg's activities (Oct. 21) may have left some readers with a false impression of our intentions for the future.

Our new company, Radio Tele Luxembourg (UK), is designed to compete with other European producers serving the Fourth Channel and certain not to compete with the Four Channel.

Indeed, our parent company, Radio Tele Luxembourg, is studying the feasibility and possibility of the introduction of satellite broadcasting to Europe, but such plans do not currently include proposals for the United Kingdom.

In this "Business Diary" I was reported as saying that Radio Luxembourg had the best radio station in the world in Britain and indeed I believe this to be so. In this area, I feel certain we could be of help to the new generation of ILR stations.

Radio Tele Luxembourg (UK) has no desire to control any ILR station, but to help with advice and finance. Such finance would be in the form of a minority holding as obviously local radio stations should be financed in general by local people.

Where we lay the blame for the marketing of the product is not for me to speculate, but I would suggest that most housewives would happily buy British—and indeed do when it is readily available at competitive prices.

We all have a vested interest in keeping our factories working, our farms flourishing and our children's futures assured. What is it in reality that makes it so difficult for us to buy British?

MARY MCLOADER,
The Old Rectory,
Kingston Essex,
Southwick,
West Sussex,
October 20.

Stamp duty on cheques

From Mr Geoffrey Minter

Sir, Has the time not come for the reintroduction of the old 2d stamp duty on cheques equivalent on cheques?

I do not know how many cheques are issued per annum, maybe you could provide this information. However, I am sure that this would be a relatively painless way of the Government raising substantial

income, especially as the number of holders of bank accounts must have grown appreciably since this duty was abolished virtually without anybody's observation.

GEORGE HOWARD,
Minter,
Stratford House,
Stratford,
Berkshire,
October 22.

Growing power of machines

From Mr Eric Fairbrother

Sir, As the development of computer-driven devices or robots proceeds, more and more sophisticated is built into the machines, including many self-preservational or self-repairing functions. A very simple form of self-preservation device is the fusible link which protects an electrical circuit or other device against damage from overheating.

Furthermore, for many years, free-roving robotic devices have been given the ability to sense when they need recharging, to seek out a "charging point," to make a connection with the point and so replenish their energy reserves.

Another aspect is that computers can be given the facility to programme each other without the need for human intervention. A very interesting prospect emerges because, up to the present time, life has evolved that there is minimal competition between species for food (except in the case of man, in any case, man's built-in abilities put him at the top of the food pyramid).

Eventually, however, machines will be so sophisticated that they will be really formidable and potentially ruthless competitors for energy.

Is man creating a monster in his own image?
ERIC FAIRBROTHER,
15 Mackie Avenue,
Brighton,
Sussex, October 20.

Flight charges to Europe

From Mr Bruce Morris

Sir, Recently a colleague and I had cause to travel on business, leaving on the same day. We both booked normal economy tickets with full rights of cancellation or change with full services. I flew to Lyons for £183 return and he to New York by courtesy of Sir Freddie for just £1 more.

Need I say more?
BRUCE MORRIS,
Managing Director,
Laboratory Imper Limited,
Lodge Road,
Widenedham, October 16.

Gill & Duffus Group

International Commodity Merchants

Interim Statement

	1980 (estimated) £'000	1979 (actual) £'000	1978 (actual) £'000
Group profit	21,000	20,555	22,702
Taxation	10,200	8,967	11,669
	10,800	11,588	11,033
Provision for deferred taxation no longer required	5,600	6,521	4,710
Profit after taxation	16,400	18,109	15,743

It is anticipated that a proportion of the tax charge for the year will again be deferred.

Dividend

The Board has declared an interim dividend of 3.6p per Ordinary Stock Unit (absorbing £2,369,000) payable on 15th December, 1980, to stockholders on the register on 13th November, 1980. This dividend, together with the related tax credit, is equivalent to 5.1429p gross and compares with the 1979 interim dividend of 4.2857p gross.

If the above profit estimate is realised, the Board intends to recommend payment of a final dividend of 4.8p, equivalent to 6.8571p gross, making a total for the year of 12.0p gross. This will represent an increase of 20.0% on the 1979 total distribution of 10.0p.

Points from Mr T. P. H. Aitken's Review

The year to date has been a reasonable one despite the fact that the efforts being made to reduce inflation, to which I referred in my last Annual Statement, have had a deflating effect on the economies of the main countries in which we trade.

Cocoa, coffee, rubber and sugar have been active, but chemicals have been dull, largely owing to the world recession. However, there are now signs that this side of the business is slowly picking up. Our associate companies continue to trade well and the commission business is making progress.

The mix of interests that we have has once again proved our ability to move positively. We face the future with great confidence but realising fully that we have much work to do.

Employers may block engineering watchdog

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor

Growing opposition to the proposed structure of a new engineering watchdog body, emerging within the Engineering Employers' Federation, a federation meeting to be held next week, is expected to raise doubts, especially about the idea of creating the body by adding a supplementary charter to that of the Council of Engineering Institutions.

Although the supplementary charter would change the CEI's name to the British Engineering Council—and alter its structure—it is feared within the federation that it may mean the engineering professions could dominate the new body to the detriment of direct industry representation.

The Post, after afternoon paper, is crammed with local advertisements, where short news stories are often difficult to find between multitudes of bargain offers.

Afternoon newspapers in the United States have long faced big problems, squeezed by expanding local television news programmes and rival morning

newspapers. The Times-Mirror has been expanding rapidly in recent years and it has the experience, money and staff to take on the challenge.

The Austin Times-Mirror newspaper is the Los Angeles Times, which has improved in quality tremendously in the past few years to the point where it is arguably among the top handful of quality United States newspapers. Times-Mirror has strengthened Newsday, a New York daily that now has a circulation of more than 500,000.

Clearly Times-Mirror is taking a long-term view of its new acquisition. The high price it has paid reflects the fact that Denver is one of the fastest growing cities in America.

But a plan, now largely supported by all the main interests within the engineering profession, would aim at achieving a substantial majority of chartered engineers on the new body's governing council.

The Confederation of British Industry has yet to give its detailed views on the new body's structure but it is expected to join the federation in calling for adequate industry representation.

The profession is now arguing that since a number of industrialists are also chartered engineers it may be possible to achieve a preponderance of professional engineers on the new body but also ensure a strong industrial voice without unduly increasing numbers on the governing council.

The profession's plan, expected to go to the department next week, could encounter difficulties from Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry. He envisaged a new body to replace the CEI, but it is being argued that changing the much-criticized CEI with supplementary charter would be merely cosmetic.

Embargo on scrap supplies to British Steel urged

By Peter Hill

Commercial Editor

Britain's ferrous scrap processing industry, faced with falling demand from steelmakers and a steep drop in prices paid for scrap, was yesterday urged to start an embargo on deliveries to British Steel to secure more realistic prices.

The call came at the half-yearly meeting of the British Scrap Federation against a background of widespread short-time working and redundancies.

Mr Jack Howard, a member of the federation, urged companies to refuse to deliver scrap to steelworks until they agreed to pay realistic prices. Constructional steel scrap was commanding a price of £32 a tonne yet scrap processing companies were having to pay £37 a tonne to buy and process the material, he said.

The industry's concern was the controversial two-tier pricing policy used by the corporation in its scrap buying.

Renewed calls were made for the federation to have further talks with Mr Ian MacGregor, the corporation's chairman, who still considers that there are too many scrap suppliers.

An embargo on deliveries of scrap, which are running at a fraction of the level of three years ago, is unlikely. Much of the industry has been forced to turn increasingly to exports of scrap to countries outside the EEC in an effort to stay in business.

The federation is attempting to persuade the Government to relax controls on the export of special and alloy steel scrap.

The industry wants complete freedom to export higher grades of scrap in line with the present freedom applied to low-grade ferrous scrap to countries outside the EEC.



Gill & Duffus Group

St Dunstan's House, 201 Borough High Street, London SE1 1HW.

Tel: 01-407 7050. Telex: 887588.

Overseas Subsidiaries in:

Accra, Bahia, Chicago, Hamburg, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Madrid, New York, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Singapore, Sydney, Takoradi, Toronto.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

ICI after the loss

It was a case of picking through the debris of ICI's third-quarter figures yesterday (which had been advanced by a month in view of their awfulness) looking for evidence of whether the situation is as bad—or worse—than had been anticipated.

In the event, a loss of £10m, including exchange rate losses of £7m against a profit of £155m in the same quarter last year, did not surprise the stock market, though it is the first time that ICI has returned a quarterly deficit. The shares gained 8p to 330p.

This prospect had been well rehearsed, most recently when the group disclosed the extent of its losses in fibres. The underlying problems of lack of demand in chemicals and textiles made itself felt during the period, and the collapse of export margins caused by the strength of sterling are well understood. Against these, even a buoyant contribution from the Ninian Field (£24m net) could not prevent an overall loss.

What encouraged the market was that ICI still intends maintaining the dividend this year, and that despite the view that the trading trend remains largely unaltered.

So far this year the deterioration has been dramatic: quarter-by-quarter profits have been £152m, £72m and now the £10m loss. The market now has to take a view about whether this drift has been arrested and to take account of the longer-term effects on the business. ICI will make provisions associated with the contraction of its activities of £150m this year; capital spending sanctions are expected to be around half the £50m of 1979.

The optimistic assumption is that conditions will be improving markedly by the first quarter of next year. If anything happens to suggest that is wrong, and by implication that a yield of nearly 10 per cent is anything other than real support for the shares at this level could fall away.

The absence of an MLR cut had the predictable effect on sterling yesterday. The dollar rate closed 75 points up at \$2.425 and the pound's trade-weighted index rising 13 to 78.6. If there was any comfort to be had it was perhaps that the sellers were quick to come in, above the \$2.45 level.

Today promises to be tight again in money markets with a £425m call on Exchequer 2 per cent 1988. A. But the hope presumably must be that things may start to become a little easier next week, though with so much official help to be unwound, it is very much a relative term at the moment.

Meanwhile, institutional investment figures for the April-June quarter point to a building of institutional liquidity and further investment overseas. Investment in overseas equities was, in fact, slightly down in the first quarter, but the implication of recent money supply figures would seem to be that the momentum may have been stepped up once more in the third quarter, and managers are probably more confused than ever at the moment as to the medium-term prospects for sterling, but there is certainly no shortage these days of broker advice on international investment and portfolio management.

Coral Now Bass takes its claim

Lord Menopola had no sooner decided that it was not worth trying to fight its bid through the Monopoly Commission than it jumps Bass as a saviour for Coral. With much less overlap in their businesses, there seems less danger of this bid being referred through there is always the chance that the commission will use the size of assets, criteria as an excuse for the more searching look at betting and gaming. Whitehall tankers after.

As it is Bass has been under no pressure to improve on Grand Mer's terms, which had already been accepted by more than one-fifth of Coral shareholders as a reasonable solution to the group's problems, and its 6-for-13 share offer is the same as Grand Mer's valuing Coral at 98p a share or £24m. Bass shares 5p lower yesterday at 212p. The bid makes as good financial sense as Grand Mer's particularly as Coral's revalued assets of £34.8m are being in line with the bid value so its £20m of borrowings will not unbalance Bass's gearing.

The all share offer has probably been dictated by the high level of capital spending

at Bass, up a quarter this year at £136m, and with higher working capital as well there will be a fall in not liquidity this year. But much depends on those parts of Coral Bass intends to get rid of and given the uncertain position of the casinos, which seem most likely to go, that is anyone's guess.

The bid will raise Bass's equity base by 39 million shares or around a seventh while as in Grand Mer's case there should be little or no earnings dilution. The logic of the deal seems to lie both in Pontins potential



Mr. Derek Ralston, chairman and chief executive of Bass.

as an outlet for beer sales, where in the light of this year's likely drop in demand Bass could be left with excess capacity, and Coral's Centre Hotels for which Bass has been a long-rumoured bidder.

Hotels have so far been a more successful diversification for Bass than other moves away from beer for the rest of the brewers but against that Bass has been one of the purest beer investments, and investors may well look askance at seeing this diluted.

Gill & Duffus Returning to a growth path

Despite a year which posed problems in chemicals trading and the Brazilian operations, Gill & Duffus has managed to reverse last year's profit fall and set itself on a growth course again. Estimated group profit at the half-way stage is put at £21m against the actual output last year of £20.6m, and if experience is a guide the estimate is conservative.

A return to profit on the United States processing side has helped, and trading in cocoa, coffee and rubber has been good, although cocoa and coffee prices have been depressed. Rubber was particularly successful in the first half, though the results are no where near as good as those returned by Guinness Peat.

What should give Gill & Duffus a boost in the coming year is expansion into new areas. The chemicals will pay off when industrial demand picks up, and there are ambitions for financial futures both here and in the United States, which could produce pretax profits up to £25-26m next year.

A 20 per cent increase in the dividend to 12p, gross for the year puts the shares at 188p on a 5.3 per cent yield, where they seem fairly valued.

Monday's mysterious bidder for Giltspur, where Mr Maxwell Joseph owns a commanding 24 per cent stake, turns out to be the Transport Development Group. The offer, a package of shares and loan stock, is worth around 115p per Giltspur share and has received a less than enthusiastic backing from Mr Joseph who says he will accept it in the absence of anything better.

The bid values each Giltspur share on a 1/2 ratio of around 13, on fully-cleared profits for the current year. With the shares standing at 110p, the offer is clearly not expected to be a counter-bidder. That may be so, but the bid seems reasonable on earnings grounds, but it is not far above asset value of 89p a share which does not sound such good value for what is essentially a service company.

Giltspur half of whose profits come from display and exhibition work is also strong in freight, packaging and motor distribution, all areas which are of interest to TDG. Should Leyland come out of hibernation the motor interest could be especially interesting. So outside shareholders risk losing little by sitting tight.

Paris

At 11.15 on Tuesday morning Judge Miragis Bourrand, president of the commercial tribunal of Saint Etienne, announced to the press crammed into his small, functional court room that "the Société Nouvelle Manufacture, manager of Société Manufacture, is in a state of liquidation".

Judge Bourrand has decreed, saying those words for a long time and been searching for every excuse to avoid doing so, just over a month ago he went to the court to read from a judgment to the winds and approve a doubtful scheme put forward by a young financial adventurer who claimed he had a miracle cure for the "Old Lady of Saint Etienne", as the company has become known.

The Old Lady has been so ill for so long now that in the end Judge Bourrand's decision was not so much a death sentence as an act of kindness. At the age of 95, the Old Lady has been in obvious death throes for the past four years and in the end, judicial euthanasia has brought an increasingly unsavoury affair to an end.

Even so, her demise has been greeted rather incredulously by the people of Saint Etienne (a town near Lyons) who have grown up believing in her immortality. The 1875 remaining employees heard the news from journalists who came from the court to the factory, which had been in half-hearted occupation since the previous evening. The union leaders sitting in the fine paneled board room had been unable to ring through to the court because the judge and his staff had all left after the decision.

The belief in the ability of the city's main employer to

Manufrance, one of the great French industrial institutions, has finally collapsed. Ian Murray reports

Death of the Old Lady of St Etienne

The last managing director, M Bernard Tapie, bought all seven of ex-Emperor Bokassa's castles in France and promised to give the profit from their resale to Unicef.

known as "the Great Families" which between them ruled over the company until 1974.

The rule of the great families was laissez faire in the extreme. What had been good enough for M Etienne was good enough for them. Old work practices were perpetuated, the catalogue was never modified and union demands were always met to avoid trouble. Nobody seemed to want to realize that the Old Lady really needed some new clothes and servants if she was not to become dowdy and outmoded.

There is no denying that she was in robust good health, for despite everything it was not until 1975 that the first tiny deficit appeared on the trading account—one of 4.3m francs on an annual turnover of 571m.

Nobody seemed particularly worried and the son and daughter of the families continued to turn up for the twice yearly shareholders' meeting armed with a small suitcase in which to carry away their dividends which were always paid in cash. Things could not continue

like that for long, however. Outside the sanctuary-like walls of Manufrance unemployment in the area was growing rapidly and as a consequence the communist vote was growing, as is always the case in France. In 1977 a communist town council was elected which meant that the party was now the largest single shareholder. From then on the writings on the wall, along with all the other graffiti sprayed on the factory buildings. No private money was really interested in the risk.

Between 1975 and May of this year six different managing directors arrived as great white hopes for the salvation of the company, only to leave disillusioned by union intransigence, government unwillingness and public apathy.

Since May much has happened, most of it undignified, in desperate attempts to save the company. The last chapter was written during September when a young Bordeaux businessman called M Jean-Claude Dumas—with an interesting but unsuccessful career in public relations, Caribbean radio and telephone answering services—being persuaded that he had persuaded a Swiss banking consortium to put up the necessary money. He convinced Judge Bourrand, who granted a stay of execution which lasted until Tuesday when it became obvious that the Swiss were not prepared to throw good money after bad.

So the company is now left in the hands of the last in a long line of managing directors—M Bernard Tapie, who at 36 claims to have saved 11 companies and 1750 jobs in the course of an amazingly full life. He now drives a Rolls-Royce, but his way to the top has been as an electrical en-

gineer, a singer and a racing driver. His one hit song as a singer was later used as the theme music for John Wayne's film *The Green Berets*.

A year ago he hit the headlines when he bought for 12m francs (about £1.53m) all seven castles in France of former Emperor Bokassa of the Central African Republic and promised to give the profit from their resale to Unicef.

He now has the job as undertaker for the Old Lady, because he was managing director of Manufrance, not of its management company, which is the one that was wound up on Tuesday. His most saleable asset is the company's newspaper, *Le Chasseur Français*, which had sales of half a million in its heyday and whose classified advertisement columns are the best known lonely hearts club in France. The Old Lady down the years has been a very considerable matchmaker.

M Tapie's plan basically is to sell off the viable parts of the company and to try to interest established companies in incorporating different sections inside their concerns. If all goes well, he expects to be able to offer the company's creditors their 500m francs back over the next 15 years. The debt has been growing at 10m francs a day recently.

But the real tragedy of the Old Lady's death is that she has left 1875 "orphans"—all that is left of a staff of more than 4,000 two years ago. M Tapie hopes to find work for 1,000 of them.

The government is now coming forward with a series of aid programmes for the area, but Saint Etienne, which has lived on the Old Lady's largesse for generations, faces a grim immediate future.

Technology

The 'brain' behind Britain's air defences

This air defence operator's console is typical of the equipment now being developed for the Ukage: command and control system by Plessey, Marconi Radar and Hughes Aircraft.

In the esoteric technology of defence, the obvious elements include radar stations to detect an enemy attack and missiles, and manned interceptors; to deal with it, the obvious to the lay person is the command and control network that underpins the complete system, taking the radar data in at one end and despatching an aircraft or missile at the other.

If the radars are the eyes and ears of a nation's air defence, the command and control system is its brain, feeding instructions to the first that delivers the defensive punch. Time was when the command and control system consisted of Sir Francis Drake being told of the approach of the Spanish Armada and completing his game of bowls before sailing on from Plymouth. Things are now less leisurely and more complicated.

The intelligent phrase "Air Defence Great Britain" (Adgb) has been coined to describe the information and control systems on the ground which match the incoming threat in the air with the appropriate response. Each bid for the system introduced in the 1960s was known as Nudge, and the improved United Kingdom one which is now being implemented is known as Ukage.

Two companies were invited to tender for the Ukage contract, which is worth about £100m over a five-year period.

Two international consortia responded.

The first to be announced, in April last year, was Ukage Systems (UKSL), a British company owned jointly by Marconi, Plessey and Hughes Aircraft of California. Last November Thomson-CSF of France became associated with the UKSL bid.

In October, 1979, a second consortium appeared, involving Westinghouse (United States), Sintra (France), Hollandse Signaal Apparaten (the Netherlands) and ICL (United Kingdom). This group later became known as the Air Defence Electronics Partnership, or Adep.

Because the Ukage system is being funded mainly by Nato, the standard Nato procedures were used to evaluate the competing bids. Each bid consisted of two parts: technical proposals and a contract price. On May 1 this year the two bids were submitted to the Ministry of Defence in London.

First, the technical proposals were examined to establish "compliance"—whether they met the specifications laid down. Both complied. Then the "price" envelopes were opened and, as Nato insists, the lower bidder was automatically selected.

The lower bidder was UKSL, whose selection was announced early in September. Now the UKSL project team, located in rather undistinguished GEC premises near the Aldwych, London, has begun to plan the

implementation of the programme.

Their starting point is the following assessment: "The main air threat to the United Kingdom in the foreseeable future will consist of increasing numbers of high-speed aircraft fitted with modern electronic counter-measures (ECM) equipment, able to operate at high or low levels and to approach the United Kingdom from any direction."

To meet this growing threat, the United Kingdom air defence requires improved air space surveillance, weapon systems and command and control facilities. New ground radars and the Nimrod airborne early-warning (AEW) aircraft will provide the improved surveillance, the Tornado F2 interceptors and surface-to-air missiles will provide weapons and the improved Ukage will provide the essential new command and control capability."

Essentially, the Ukage system is based on a distributed data-processing network that will speed up and amplify the supply of information to the air defence controllers. Automated systems will be installed at a number of underground operational control centres, fed by radar surveillance covering an area of four million square miles and linked to adjacent countries' air defence authorities.

Leading the UKSL effort in London is Mr Emmett Burnett, chief executive officer of the

company. Mr Burnett comes from Hughes' Birmingham, and is a staff seconded from the three parent companies (Hughes, Marconi and Plessey) and from Thomson-CSF.

The London team, which will grow to about 100 people, will handle overall systems design and integration and programme management. It will place sub-contractors with the four companies for the development and supply of their respective subsystems.

Marconi will provide the display console including software and voice communications. Plessey will supply digital data communications, including software, and a four-colour indicator for the display console. Hughes will provide the central data-processing equipment and software and a large screen display.

Thomson-CSF will provide additional engineering expertise and will manufacture some equipment under subcontract to UKSL and its parent companies.

Mr Burnett stresses that the Ukage design is based to a large extent on hardware and software that is already available. By adopting a modular approach the aim is to provide flexibility—both in implementing the basic system and in adapting to changing factors during its operational life.

As well as increasing the speed and capacity of the air defence system, a significant improvement in the new Ukage

installation will arise from the built-in checks on the range of functions that the operator can perform. This will be done by software. Another new feature is the introduction of colour displays in this particular role.

Future development will be eased both by the modular approach to hardware (more processors can be added as required) and by the ability to change software independently of hardware changes.

For Mr Burnett and his project management team, a main task will be to knit together the individual contributions of the subcontractors. Precise synchronization of the three main companies' programmes will be essential and in this end a standard reporting system is being devised. UKSL staff will direct the programme from a special control room in the company's London headquarters and others will monitor progress and problems at the subcontractors' premises.

There is more to the task than simply ensuring that the technical design meets the operational requirement. Mr Burnett points out. The operational implications must be appreciated: some factors are genuinely fixed in time, while others might change.

Thus the answer must be an evolving system, both in implementation and in use. A too rigid system would be dangerous.

Kenneth Owen

Business Diary: Offshore, off the peg Sir Geoffrey and Mrs O

critics of university research workers are in for a surprise this week, for the allegedly bid academics have come off badly in the market place. They are making a strong bowing at Europe II, the conference and exhibition now taking place at Earls Court.

Among the stands devoted to attracting goodie from the most of oil reserves and of preventing the fouling of ships, pipelines and platforms.

The National Consumer Council has secured the agreement of Sir Geoffrey, the conductor of the Exchequer, to address the National Consumer Congress it is planning for next April.

There is some poignancy about the engagement. Sir Geoffrey was the first minister to appoint a consumer



"If we can no longer export Shakespeare the economy really is up the creek."

times of the Heath government, based about the country opening up consumer advice centres. The centres have been closed in scores since this Government ended its grants and imposed cash limits on local authorities. If this suggests that Sir Geoffrey may not have an easy time of it, the present minister for consumer affairs, was booted at this year's national consumer congress in Sheffield, where she berated the National Consumer Council for meddling in taxation policy, which, according to her, should be none of its business. A budget is likely to be imminent when Sir Geoffrey speaks.

a 960 square kilometre former Portuguese colony in the Atlantic off the coast of Gabon, West Africa.

Carlo Gomes, Sao Tome's Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, is visiting London on behalf of his president, Dr Manuel Pinto Da Costa. Among the people at the minister will be seeing is Sir Richard, former Labour Minister of Power and then of Transport, and now chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association.

Sir Richard, together with Willy Wilder, managing director of VIP Travel, want to interest British interests in developing and servicing a 200-bed hotel and tourist development on the island.

This Wilder says, could draw either on minded tourists from Western Europe, often from the drilling rigs along the West African coast or Nigeria's nouveau riche.

Wilder first met Gomes when the latter was head of his country's resident purchasing mission here. The hotel cannot be too big, for tourists would outnumber the islanders, of whom there were about 70,000 at the last count.



Sudden explosions might be expected from a group calling itself TNT, but they have a slow fuse at Australia's Thomas Nationwide Transport, whose chairman Fred Millar and Hungarian-born chief executive Sir Peter Ables (above) are here this week ahead of Monday's entry into the London stock market.

Fuses fizzled recently in a fight with Rupert Murdoch, the only Australian businessman well known here apart from Kerry Packer.

The prize was Australia's airline and television group Ansett. But the outcome was a draw, with the two parties having just below half each. Murdoch and associate companies began mopping up Ansett shares in 1979 after TNT dropped its guard and let its six-year stake fall from nearly a quarter to 12 per cent.

Now the protagonists have

agreed to live amicably in joint ownership—for the time being at least. Mr Murdoch is an old friend, Sir Peter declared yesterday.

Sir Peter came to TNT when it merged with his old company, Altrans, in 1967. In recent months he has been running Ansett in the absence of joint managing director Murdoch in the United States. Meanwhile, the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal has refused to approve the increased Murdoch stake in Ansett, but an appeal is on the cards.

King Hussein of Jordan's none-too-subtle support for Iraq in its conflict with Iran is not confined to mere military matters. That eminently refined hotel chain Sheraton has just found that when the King speaks, his word is answered in the Jordanian capital of Amman.

The place has been flooded with Iraqi business people and their families seeking a quieter life than that now available in Baghdad. Some are paying £500 or so for the rough and ready camp beds in Jordan's dusty capital.

Sheraton was due to open a new hotel on behalf of a local owner in a month's time but, on the direct orders of the king, the unfinished Amman Sheraton has been occupied by refugees from Iraq.

Ross Davies

CHRISTIE'S IN THE CITY

CHRISTIE-RESELL

Fine Wines at Beaver Hall

28 October 1980

12 noon at Beaver Hall

Large trade stocks of French and German wines, with an extensive in-bond section; vintage Port, classed-growth Claret, Burgundy, vintage Champagne and other fine wines.



8 King Street, London SW1X 9QT Tel: 01-839 9060.

Bad news from ICI fails to daunt many buyers

Life up a further 2p to 244p
word of a large movement
shares was confirmed: 11
Kuwait Investment Office h
sold its 10 per cent stake
South African Life at 252p
share. Pearl Assurance was
good form, rising 14p to 464p
but the rest of the sector close

dated sales rose by 17 per cent to 20,658m francs from 17,717m. The Group's cash flow at the end of June stood at 1,440m francs, up from 1,277m a year ago.

101	42	Walker, Alexander	99	—	5.7	5.8	5
245	136	W. S. Yeates	240	—	12.1	5.0	3
<p>*Accounts not prepared under provision of SSAP 15.</p>							

Marshalltown 2107)
Charler Consolidated Limited
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October 24-1988

(5240,000). EPS 2.12p (2.9p). Chairman, says that due to recession, which continues to bite harder as year progresses, it would be unwise to make any predictions as to final results for 1980.

cent to 29,800m yen (about \$60m). Sales also rose by 17 per cent to 977,000m yen.

Hitachi officials said sales in electronics products, heavy

dated sales rose by 17 per cent to 20,658m francs from 17,717m. The Group's cash flow at the end of June stood at 1,440m francs, up from 1,277m a year ago.

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<p>*Accounts not prepared under provision of SSAP 15.</p>							

Abstract—The purpose of this study was to determine if there were differences in the prevalence of musculoskeletal disorders between two groups of nurses working in different departments of a hospital. The study included 100 nurses from the intensive care unit and 100 nurses from the medical-surgical department. Data were collected by means of a questionnaire that assessed demographic characteristics, work-related factors, and musculoskeletal symptoms. Results showed that the prevalence of musculoskeletal disorders was higher among nurses in the intensive care unit than among nurses in the medical-surgical department. The most common disorder was low back pain, followed by neck pain and shoulder pain. Work-related factors such as long hours, repetitive tasks, and physical demands were associated with the development of musculoskeletal disorders.

...and the

...and the fact that the *Journal* is a journal of the American Psychological Association, the largest and most influential organization in the field of psychology, adds to the journal's prestige and makes it a must-read for all psychologists.

MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER was steady. Afternoon session...
WHEAT was steady. Afternoon session...
SOYBEANS were steady. Afternoon session...

IWC lowers forecast on wheat

The International Wheat Council has cut its world wheat output forecast of a month earlier by 6 million tons to 444 million for 1980. This is due to worsening crop prospects in the Soviet Union and probable setbacks in Australia and Argentina.

Discount market

The Bank of England gave help on a modern scale yesterday, following the unchanged M.R. and equalled its recent seven-year high of 2.4750 at one, with the rising trend of United Kingdom.

Foreign exchange report

At the outset, the pound encountered a good deal of resistance following the unchanged M.R. and equalled its recent seven-year high of 2.4750 at one, with the rising trend of United Kingdom.

Sterling Spot and Forward

Market rate	Forward rate
New York	1.9340-1.9350
London	1.9340-1.9350
Frankfurt	1.9340-1.9350

Other Markets

Market rate	Forward rate
Australia	1.5100-1.5110
Canada	1.3100-1.3110
Japan	160.00-160.10

Wall Street

New York, Oct. 24.—The announcement of Mr. Alexei Kovalev, the Soviet Premier's resignation, sent the stock market sharply lower in heavy trading.

Indices

Index	Value
FTSE 100	1012.50
DAX	2150.00

Dollar Spot Rates

Country	Rate
Canada	1.3100
Japan	160.00

Money Market Rates

Instrument	Rate
Bank of England M.R.	2.4750
Three month bill	11.00%

EMS Currency Rates

Currency	Rate
Belgian franc	33.3333
French franc	6.5596
Italian lire	2036.27

Gold

Market	Price
London	375.00
New York	375.00

US commodities

Commodity	Price
Wheat	1.2500
Soybeans	1.1000

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Unit Name	Value	Unit Name	Value
Authorised Unit Trusts		Offshore and International Funds	
1. Aberdeen Fund	100.00	1. Aberdeen Fund	100.00
2. Aberdeen Fund	100.00	2. Aberdeen Fund	100.00
3. Aberdeen Fund	100.00	3. Aberdeen Fund	100.00

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IN VERBIEER
Arminius van Nierich—
only 118 yrs.
OF FLIGHTS
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W 118
N 01253 6101
olidays
11874
ND SAVERS
ERKES AMSTERDAM
& BRUSSELS
Y. our 1200 breaks per
— daily flights to Paris,
— daily flights to Brussels
to 685 hours. No return
— flights including
— and transportation

[illegible]

**CATERING IN THE
RESORTS FROM £45 !!**

To compare our prices for
resorts like Val d'Arenas, La
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to September, March, October, and
January.

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Switzerland BAILLIE &
US 76-8511 75th St.
NYC NY 10021 ACQ 1-9338

[illegible][illegible]

temperature control \$294
 vacuum, steam, dryer \$294
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